

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LXI.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 8TH APRIL, 1905.

No. 14

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BIRTHS.

- On 7th March, at Hankow, the wife of A. R. BURTENSHAW, of a daughter, still-born.
- On 20th March, at Kulangsu, Amoy, the wife of the Rev. G. REYNOLDS TURNER, London Mission, of a daughter.
- On 23rd March, at London Mission, Hengchow, Hun-n, to Dr. and Mrs. E. C. PEAKE, a son.
- On 25th March, at Hangchow, to Rev. F. W. and Mrs. BIBLE, of the American Presbyterian Mission, a son.
- On 26th March, at Tientsin, the wife of JULIUS WOLBER, Imperial Chinese Telegraph Administration, of a daughter.
- On 27th March, at Shanghai, the wife of S. E. SCHWARTZ, of a daughter.
- On 27th March, at Shanghai, the wife of CHARLES JEDLIKA, of a daughter.
- On 27th March, at Hankow, the wife of HUGH E. RAMSAY, of a son.
- On 31st March, at Shanghai, the wife of J. M. TAVARES, of a son.
- On 1st April, at Shanghai, the wife of GEO. MARCAL, of a son.
- On 3rd April, at "Eilandonan," the Peak, the wife of ANDREW FORBES, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

- On 26th March, at Shanghai, ELSEE GRACE, daughter of ALEX and ANNIE ROSS, aged 3 years and 8 months.
- On 28th March, at Shanghai, SUSAN PERRY WADMAN, Relict of the late Edwin Wadman, of Ningpo, aged 67 years.
- On 4th April, at Eilandonan, The Peak, the infant daughter of ANDREW and HILDA FORBES.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of 10th March arrived, per the s.s. *Coromandel*, on Thursday, the 6th instant.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A British bluejacket, named W. Wyt, was buried at Shanghai on March 27th. He belonged to H.M.S. *Sirius*.

The China Printing Co., Ltd., at Shanghai (promoted by Mr. Harry Smith, formerly of the Oriental Press) has paid a four per cent dividend.

On the 4th April, it is reported, the s.s. *Pow-an*, bound for Canton, ran down a junk at Whampoa, cutting it in halves. Four Chinese were reported drowned.

A vagrant named Shepherd was on April 5 sentenced to the house of detention. He got a ship recently but left his job, and the Sailors' Home refused to take him back.

At the Police Court on April 3rd a Chinese constable, asked if the defendant was tardy about opening her boxes to be searched, said:—Her body consented against the wish of her mind.

The *Courrier d'Haiphong* says that the French cruiser *Sully* is now in a worse position than before. She is further on the rock. Nothing is now to be hoped for. The loss of 25,000,000 francs is assured.

A small fire occurred at No. 76, Des Vœux Road, a medicine shop, on the 4th April shortly before one o'clock. The Brigade turned out and confined the outbreak to the kitchen where it originated. The damage was very small.

On the 4th April Mr. F. A. Hazeland inquired into the cause of death of a prisoner who died in Victoria Gaol. He was doing six weeks' hard labour for a conviction under the Opium Ordinance. He died from natural causes.

The body of J. W. Fisher, a bluejacket, was recovered from the water in front of the Naval Canteen on the 6th April. Deceased was an A.B. on board H.M.S. *Centurion* and had been on shore on leave. It is not known how he came to be drowned.

After much experimenting the Electric Tramway Company has finally decided upon two cent fares for third class passengers, and ten cent fares for first class passengers. For each first class ten cent section there are two third class two cent sections.

The *N.-C. Daily News* understands it is the intention of the Directors of the Shanghai Waterworks Company to recommend at the next annual meeting a final dividend for the past year of thirty-seven shillings and six pence (37/6) per share at exchange 2/7.

The report of the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co., Ltd., for 1904, shows a divisible balance of Tls. 190,256. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of Tls. 6 on the old shares, making 10 per cent for the year, and Tls. 3 on the new shares, to place Tls. 24,000 to repairs account, and carry forward the balance, Tls. 10,712.

On April 3rd at four a.m. an attempt at housebreaking was made on Messrs. Falconer and Company's establishment in Queen's Road Central. The robbers wrenched off one of the shutters and then broke the thick plate glass window. The noise drew the attention of the watchman, and the burglars ran away empty handed.

For a small hospital in Sieng-in, Fukien, it is officially announced that "in a few months we had promises of over \$800, most of the native workers giving a month's salary and many of the Christians as liberally."

Reporting an absurd Chinese rumour, a Northern writer says:—Sometimes the foreign resident in China feels as though he were unwittingly playing a part in a huge stage farce. How a people so sensible in ordinary life can be guilty of the whimsical absurdities that we hear and see every day, is a problem beyond the amateur psychologist.

It is announced by advertisement to-day that a constant supply of water to the Hill District has now been resumed. Thanks to the unusual amount of rain we have had this season, as well as, we presume, to the enlarged water storage accommodation the Colony now has, the period of the intermittent supply has been shorter this year than for many years past.

An inquiry was held by Mr. F. A. Hazeland on April 6th into the cause of death of Kwok Chat Po, prisoner at Victoria Gaol. The deceased was one of three, a father and two sons, who were sentenced to death for murder in December 1901. The father and one son were executed, but the sentence against the deceased was commuted to imprisonment for life, with hard labour. He died from natural causes.

Shanghai papers record the death of Mrs. G. W. Coutts, whom the *Daily News* describes as a most gracious representative of the palmy days of Shanghai. She came back to China last year to accompany her daughter Mrs. C. W. Campbell, and to be with her during Mr. Campbell's absence in Szechuan. Her elder daughter, Mrs. Ritchie, is in London, but she had the pleasure of having her younger daughter and her son with her to the last.

The report to the 31st of December last of the Yangtze Insurance Association, Ltd., shows a divisible balance in the account for 1903 and former years of \$288,191. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 20 per cent, put \$50,000 to reinsurance, and carry forward the balance \$42,191. The 1904 account shows a credit balance of \$623,365. It is proposed to pay out of interest earned a special dividend of 5 per cent, and carry forward the balance, \$599,365.

In his article on Infanticide in a recent issue of *Meany's Chinese Miscellany*, "General" Meany makes some very pertinent remarks on the burning question of the fate of Eurasian girls, which has become and will increasingly become, such a serious matter wherever there are large foreign communities in the East. The facts that he gives are, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, widely known, but they are hushed up as far as possible, though a day of reckoning must come.

The Hongkong C.M.A. leaflet for April contains the following:—"In response to a request from some of the wealthier Chinese residents of Hongkong, a preparatory school for young Chinese children has recently been opened by the C.M.S. It was at first suggested that the Society's building near to 'Haldon' should be used for the purpose, but as this was found to be inconveniently situated, a building at Breezy Point was chosen. Miss Carden of 'Fair-lee' has been appointed to carry on the school."

A CHEESEPARING COLONY.

(Daily Press, 4th April.)

Our correspondent "BANYAN" in his jottings has thrown a new, and it must be confessed, a rather startling light on to the increase in the price of provisions at Hongkong, which increase has been so much bewailed and commented upon lately. A new light we have called it, because a forgotten old light suddenly revived comes with all the brilliance of a new. Who remembers the Food Commission of five years ago? Certainly among the numerous members of the community who contributed to the recent discussion of rising prices we can remember no particular reference to the feature of the Food Commission's report which "BANYAN" has now emphasised. As he reminds us, the cry was all against Chinese "squeeze pidjin." Well, because they are perhaps not so black as they were painted, we have no intention of suggesting that the Chinese market stall holders are innocent of complicity in the "squeeze" which we, as residents, are all experiencing. But squeeze begets squeeze. The contractor who has a too close-fisted employer is not likely to be generous with the sub-contractor; and our correspondent's analysis of the market revenues seems to show beyond all reasonable doubt that the squeezing native meat-seller is forced into his repeated impositions by official impositions which, in view of the representation of the Food Commission in 1900, we may fairly call "squeezes" committed by the Government in open defiance of public opinion. A tax on the food supply of this Colony, "BANYAN" calls it, and with justice. The Government must have revenue, of course; but surely there are forms of taxation that do not involve such penny-wise levies as are to be got by annual increases of market rents; and, we might add, by peddling timber from the hillsides? Perhaps the Government thinks there should be advances in market rents to correspond with the ever rising shop rents; but it will need a wise resident to say why this should be. "BANYAN" puts the increase in market revenue, accomplished since the Food Commission requested the Government to keep market rentals as low as possible, at \$20,000; but it appears to be nearer \$25,000. It does not need to be pointed out that nearly every cent of that amount has been paid, not out of the stallholders' profits, but out of the pockets of the consumers. The increase for this last year is given as \$7,832. Is there any cause for wonder that prices should have gone up so much as to give rise to all this futile talk of meat clubs? Avaricious as they may be, we cannot help regarding the market renters as to some extent fellow victims with ourselves, suffering only in a lesser degree than their customers; and all because we have the misfortune to live under a Government that happens to be placed by circumstances above criticism. It certainly behaves as if it were. Outsiders think that, as a "free" port, Hongkong enjoys cheaper imports than they do. Every resident has reason to know what a fallacy this is. Importers who retail cannot give their customers the benefit of untariffed prices, because their other expenses are so high. Everything cannot be set down to absentee landlordism. The price of necessities interacts on rates of rent; in no place more than in Hongkong is the inter-relation of one business with another more apparent. The evil influence of a cheese paring policy in the Government makes itself felt by the official's lady who goes to buy a piano, and by the clerk's wife

who sends her "boy" to market for a cabbage. Legislative Council meetings do not occur every week. While we are waiting for the unofficial member to utter our protest, can we not assail the walls of Jericho for ourselves, by making such a united noise as even our local bureaucracy must give ear to? From Sir MATTHEW NATHAN, who has so far shown himself a fair-minded man, with a desire to rise above the narrow official rut from which Hongkong officialdom has seemed unable to escape hitherto, we might even extract a pledge that, should he in his wisdom deem another enquiry desirable, some attention would be paid in responsible quarters to the conclusions of the new Commission. The public has been accused of laziness, indifference, and what-not, because it has not always jumped at every panacea that was proclaimed from the housetops. We do not think it is laziness, and we are certain it is not indifference, for everywhere the cry is the same—an almost comic despair at the constant upward trend of prices, and the almost as regularly diminishing value of money. When the public is really of one mind on a public question, and nothing seems to be done, the reason must be sought elsewhere. It is often said by old residents here that "it is no use expecting Mr. So-AND-so to move in the matter, because Mr. SOMEBODY-ELSE wouldn't like it, and he puts a lot in his way"! It does not, as the saying is, need half-an-eye to see that much progress is impossible if that sort of thing is the rule. But is it? We think there must be numbers of influential citizens with sufficient courage to speak the truth that is in them. Let them now speak, and let every TOM, DIK, and HARRY add his testimony, remembering that the GOVERNOR, like the TSAR, must be guided to a great extent by what he is told. We must appeal to the GOVERNOR personally, rather than to that somewhat abstract thing called the Legislative Council, if we want any attention paid to our case. For who knows of a recorded case of an official member voting "agin the Government"? The GOVERNOR is the Government, if it be not high treason to say so, and it is but wise to act accordingly. To sum up, has that extra \$25,000 extorted in market rentals (since a specially appointed Commission recommended that such rentals be minimised) anything to do with the corresponding increase in cost of necessities? If it has, does the public wish the Government to continue its present policy in this particular, or not? Those in favour may write to their newspaper saying "aye," those against saying "no." It is a free country.

THE CHINA SQUADRON.

(Daily Press 5th April.)

The last word has not been said about the naval re-organisation of Sir JOHN FISHER, which is responsible for the departure of a number of obsolete British craft from Chinese waters. Hongkong opinion, whether swayed by "Imperial thinking" or not, was by way of approving the change, as well as the ideas which inspired it. Further north they have been longer in making up their minds; and it is only on the 30th March that our Shanghai contemporary gives voice to opinions diametrically opposed to those we ventured to offer on the 24th January. On that occasion we incidentally remarked, *a propos* quite another issue, that "it is only those who disagree with and oppose us that we dub stupid," so perhaps it is wise to hasten to add that we have no desire to allow our contemporary to apply this casual remark to itself, while we proceed to consider its belated comments

on the British naval re-organisation scheme. Our contemporary says: "Unfortunately for us, the very heterogeneous concourse of political atoms composing Mr. BALFOUR's Cabinet is strikingly destitute of imagination. No member of it, from Lord LANSDOWNE to the present Lord SALISBURY, seems to have the least idea of the value of prestige. The sacrifices which the British army and navy made in the past in the Far East were repaid not only in the immediate results, but even more in the prestige they conferred on the British nation and its representatives here. Intangible as prestige may be, it is yet an invaluable asset, and its value can be maintained by a very little care and attention, while it can be very easily lost, and it is recovered with difficulty if it is once lost." In this there is much with which, knowing the characteristic Chinese capacity for estimating the values of others, we may not quarrel. But in referring to the absence of the imaginative gift in the British Government, does our esteemed contemporary not lay itself open to a straight *tu quoque*? Why suggest, as it suggests, that we intend to rely upon the Germans for help in policing the Yangtze, in any case where our remaining forces prove inadequate? Has the history of the past year no stimulating power over our contemporary's imagination? Is there no Japanese fleet, and no Anglo-Japanese alliance? In our earlier comments we remarked that "the survival of the Japanese fleet, after a formidable struggle, should argue, supposing our alliance to hold firm, less need for the services of this [China] squadron in the future." That alliance, which we believe will be renewed and strengthened, was not made without any imagination as to its possibilities; and it was undoubtedly intended to benefit both parties. Does this scheme of Admiral FISHER's not exhibit one form of benefit that we receive? Regarded in this way, a way that, after all, needs no colossal imagination, we are unable to see how "the wholesale reduction of the British naval force in these waters is not merely a very heavy blow to our prestige, but it is a serious danger." If we did not know that the *N.-C. Daily News* was sound on that point, we should take that "serious danger" to be another Yellow Peril story. On reading further, it appears that our Shanghai friends have in mind another anti-foreign rising, and that it goes so far as to suggest that a retention of the pre-reform system would prevent that. Were there no British ships on the China station five years ago? Why did "the sight of the flag on a British man-of-war" not operate preventively then? The further suggestion that Sir GERARD NOEL is at present "helpless" for such a small job as that of hunting up and exploding the derelict mines now endangering shipping in the north is nonsense. The fact probably is that in this matter everybody's business has been regarded as nobody's business. The ship that China detailed for this work was, quite naturally, laid up in Taku dock, and is there yet, and the British ships have been too busy with Fleet boxing competitions and the like to worry about interfering with a task that merchantmen are spasmodically performing. As for the *Teal* and *Widgeon* being far less useful than the discarded *Bramble* and *Britomart*, that is a point for experts, who apparently differ, for we have listened to a contrary opinion.

We have said that we do not disagree with our contemporary as to the importance of prestige. Nor do we, but there may be more than one way of securing and retaining it. Sir JOHN FISHER's ships,

though fewer, are more likely to keep the Chinese awake to our prestige than were the vessels that we ventured to call "portable residences for naval tea-parties." Or, more exactly, they are much less likely to cause us to suffer loss in that respect than were the vessels withdrawn. Of course, when our contemporary speaks of the frequent sight of the British flag inspiring or re-inspiring prestige, it is mere hyperbole. We know how bravely the Russian flag has been flaunted all over north China, and how flimsy was Russian prestige even before the Japanese lowered it still more. Finally, when our contemporary expresses the opinion that the British ships at river ports should be sufficiently numerous to "keep up our prestige *vis-à-vis* . . . our excellent friends the Japanese," we think it is so "destitute of imagination" that it has failed to recognise what we imagine may well have been one of the intentions of the parties to the Anglo-Japanese contract.

RUSSIAN PRESTIGE.

Daily Press, 6th April.

We have on several occasions recently, that is to say, since the Russo-Japanese war took the decided turn it has taken, treated as obvious what no one seems to have thought of disputing—that Russian prestige is irretrievably lost for at least this generation. Recent statements coming from Europe give us pause; make us consider if that assertion was not too sweeping. Military prestige, perhaps,—yes. But is warlike renown, the reputation of the conqueror at arms, the only prestige worth considering? There is the statement that Russian officials engineered that premature and wholly incorrect report of the Dogger Bank Enquiry Commission, in order that English newspapers might comment upon it; and then allowed all journals containing such comments to enter Russia uncensored, so that the Russian people might see for themselves, by unimpeachable English admissions, how Russia had scored a triumph in that particular affair. There is also the statement that all these reports of peace negotiations have been deliberately inspired by Russian officials, in order that a general belief in the near-at-hand cessation of the war may restore public confidence in Russian finances, and so enable Russia to raise a fresh foreign loan with which to continue the war! There are numerous other similar statements attributing to Russian statecraft a far-sighted cunning that it were feeble and inadequate to dub Machiavelian, for the crafty Florentine himself could scarcely see so many moves ahead in the great international chess-play, as Europe seems now disposed to give St. Petersburg credit for. Is this not prestige? Prestige of a kind to count? It would seem that Europe would be ready, supposing some great natural cataclysm in the Far East were to swallow up Japan and all her forces, to give Russian diplomacy credit for in some way bringing it about. The survival of the fittest, it is often necessary to point out, does not imply the survival of the strongest. Cunning in innumerable instances defeats mere strength; and if we are to believe that St. Petersburg enjoys a tithe of the preternatural wisdom which we have dropped into the habit of attributing to it, there can be no question which nation will survive in the long run. There is a cunning which defeats itself, however, like that which is foolishly ascribed to the head-hiding ostrich; and if we carefully weigh Russian schemings in China with Russian results achieved, we will find that there is no serious occasion to

give Russian officialdom credit for unusual shrewdness. If we may accept only half the conclusions of writers like PUTNAM WEALE, who professes to know Manchuria better and more intimately than the Londoner knows the Strand, we must admit that "for ways that are dark," and tricks not altogether vain, the Chinaman can give the Muscovite a long start and a beating. The most transparent failure of these wily schemes is to be noticed in the real public feeling in Russia. If Russian officials did think to deceive their constituents (a quite inadvertent sarcasm, that) by importing bogus news in the way suggested, they have gained prestige for an astuteness that should bring them success; but they have experienced the inevitable failure that must cost them more than they gained. The reported ascendancy of the war party (sure to be REUTER'S, again) is a silly thing to flash from West to East. The war party in Russia, being the official party, has never ceased to be ascendent, even when a bomb has exploded under some illustrious member of it. Russian public feeling, according to L. VILLARI in the *Monthly Review*, still is that the war is an unmitigated curse, and the policy that led up to it criminal folly. As to the bait of peace to secure a new war loan, it might work, remembering how easily the money market may sometimes be coaxed, and what an inducement there is for those who, already deeply in, plunge further in order to save and recoup; but we will be exceedingly surprised if Russia does succeed, after recent revelations, in securing more European money at anything like normal rates. These statements, as we have said, indicate that Russia has retained a certain sort of prestige; but it is of the kind that enables us to recognise how important it is that any form of prestige, to be of use, must be deserved. And even this later prestige, it seems to us, is based on fallacies. The conduct of a suicide surprises a jury so much that it verdicts "temporary insanity." In the case of Russia, they are also surprised, and conclude that behind all these erratic movements there must be some deep design. Poor Russia!

SNOBBERY IN THE FAR EAST.

(Daily Press, 7th April.)

"In the colonies the lines of class demarcation are generally fainter than in the mother-country. As in the East a street fig-seller of yesterday may be a Pasha tomorrow, so in the colonies it is even now easier for a poor man to become rich than in countries where Possession has secured ninety-nine points of the Law. Besides, so many men now rich were themselves poor a few years ago, that they have not had time to have their new rank patented." This passage is taken from an address on the subject of education in South Africa, that was delivered before the members of the Royal Colonial Institute, and that appeared in the last issue of the Institute's *Journal*. How far the ideas therein expressed are justly applicable to the South African colony, we are not in a position to say; but entertain the opinion that in this colony, and in other British settlements in the Far East which, in connection with any consideration of the subject so suggested, must be counted as British colonies, it does not present a truthful picture of society. We have no intention, however, of proceeding to the opposite extreme, of affirming that the lines of class demarcation are peculiarly strong in British communities out here. This is the early impression

gained by many "griffins," perhaps because there are so many discontented cynics who are diligent in imparting such instruction to the new arrival. Even before he steps off the ship that brings him to the new world to which he looks forward so eagerly, he may be told that the British communities in the Orient are characterised by the most virulent forms of snobbery. The great social distinction drawn between money and no money, between public service and private trade, and, in the instance of the latter, the social advantage of belonging to the Wholesale, as opposed to the Retail,—all these are earnestly pumped into the young man, until he loses all joy of possession in his new dress-coat, and starts the life Oriental in a state of distressful prejudice. He is (if we may confine ourselves temporarily to this one type) ill at ease when making new acquaintances, being full of mistrustful thoughts inspired in the way indicated; and when, as he inevitably must, he encounters some individual too busy, too pre-occupied, to take the trouble to rake over and through this superimposition of handicapping folly, he perhaps becomes a little bitter, and reflects on things he has heard about some leading local light of redundant periphery and resplendent watch-chain having come out as a ship's steward or something of the sort. "He is no better than I," he soliloquises; therein showing (now that we are enlightened as to the working of his mind) where the real snobbery lies. Thinking of these things, we wish often that some new and more charitable THACKERAY would arise to give us a new "Book of Snobs," something to show, as indeed THACKERAY has shown to discriminating readers, that a person may be a snob and yet escape damnation. As GEORGE MOORE says, "The one eternal and immutable delight of life is to think, for one reason or another, that we are better than our neighbours." There is the snobbery of cash, which could be defended on various grounds. If a recent dictum be accepted, that a man's value to the world is the value of his earnings, we may argue that conspicuous financial success implies in a man a certain superiority over his fellows; and on economic grounds it is a good thing that moneyed folk are "stand-offish" with those of lesser means. Good for the latter, we mean, for it absolves them from the necessity of wasteful expenditure to keep up appearances; and it ought to act as an incentive to them to bide their time, to be careful and industrious, that someday they may go and do likewise. It only needs to conjure up such a situation as that of a millionaire and a poor man trying to spend a holiday together, to show how unsuitable are such associations. The former is subjected to the discomfort of travelling third class; the latter to the humiliating reflection that he has caused such discomfort. The question of hotels offers like difficulties; the emulative LACKCASH must either pay more than he can afford, or feel "small." Another kind of snobbery may be religious. The Pharisee was a religious snob. Even then, since it sets a standard for the individual, on the principle of *noblesse oblige*, may we not argue a certain value for snobbery? In all its forms, snobbery could be thus defended, as one of the forces which move men to effort, sometimes foolish, no doubt; but, at any rate, effort and enterprise. Returning now to its application to the East, we may express our conviction that the "griffin" was mistaken. There is enough snobbery to make the statement in our opening quotation false; but not more than there is at Home or elsewhere. It may take different forms in different localities; but

in its essence, snobbery is universal. We may even go so far as to assert that there is no one more snobbish than the person who complains of snobbery. And his is the only form of it which we are not concerned to defend.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held in the Board Room on the 4th April. Dr. F. Clark (President) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Vice President), Mr. F. J. Badesley, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Col. W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C., Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Mr. A. Ramjahn, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Dr. H. Macfarlane, Dr. Moore, Dr. Pearce, and Mr. G. N. Orme (Secretary).

A NEW SECRETARY.

The PRESIDENT—His Excellency the Governor has appointed Mr. Orme Secretary of the Sanitary Board pending the return of Mr. Woodcock (Applause).

MR. HEWETT'S SUCCESSOR.

Mr. POLLOCK—Have you got any information as to what the Government is going to do regarding a successor to Mr. Hewett during his absence?

The PRESIDENT—The Ordinance lays down that till a member has been absent for six months a successor cannot be appointed unless the member resigns, and Mr. Hewett has not resigned.

Mr. POLLOCK—Though there is such a rule, on another similar occasion it was said that measures would be taken to prevent such action in the future.

The PRESIDENT—I will make enquiries and let the members know.

CEMETERY BYELAWS.

The Secretary of the Sanitary Board on the 23rd March wrote to the Colonial Secretary, saying that at the meeting of the Board, on the 21st March, the principles of sanitation relative to the burial of bodies were discussed, and, upon hearing the opinion of the Medical officer of Health, it was felt that the requirement of a depth of seven feet for graves inflicted an unnecessary expense upon the public without safe-guarding the public health in any way. It was accordingly decided to amend Sections four and fourteen of the Cemetery Byelaws by substituting "five" for "seven."

His Excellency the Governor replied that he was not prepared to agree to any amendment of Cemetery Byelaws Nos. four and fourteen on the lines indicated by the Board's resolution.

CHINESE TRANSLATIONS

The Registrar General (Hon. Mr. Brewin) forwarded a minute relative to the furnishing of Chinese translations of letters written by the Board to Chinese. He said:—Towards the end of last year there was a discussion at a meeting of the Board as to the furnishing of Chinese translations of letters written by the Board to Chinese. I have since been told that a stamp in Chinese is affixed to each letter to Chinese telling them to apply at the Board's office if they want it interpreted. I have seen numerous letters from the Sanitary Department, but I have never yet seen this stamp affixed, and I learn from enquiries that it is not on every letter. If the present procedure is to be adhered to it would be advisable (1) to have the notice printed on the letter paper (2) to alter the notice to read "an explanation of this letter will be given on application at the Board's office or at a District Office between the hours of" People should not be compelled to come to the Central office from Kowloon, Causeway Bay or Kennedy Town. Thirdly, there should also be a notice in English to the effect that District Inspectors are directed to explain this communication. Fourthly, the instructions to these inspectors should contain an instruction that it is part of their duty to explain these letters, and a fixed time should be given when the inspectors should be in attendance at their offices.

The Secretary of the Board replied:—The stamp referred to reads as follows:—"If you do not understand English and do not know what is written in this letter go to the Sanitary Board for information and translation." This is impressed on all letters sent from this office or forms partly printed such as letters re non-compliance with building, limewashing, nuisance and other notices. The letters which are entirely typewritten are comparatively few, and are mostly addressed to Chinese who have written to the Board in English.

Mr. Ramjahn minuted—All notices should be translated similar to those for filling up rat runs.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak minuted—I agree with the Hon. Registrar General. All the inspectors should be instructed to explain when asked. I may say that in the majority of cases people are prosecuted and fined more for ignorance and want of explanation than for wilful negligence or non-compliance.

The REGISTRAR GENERAL moved that the stamp on the Sanitary Board letters be altered so as to inform the recipient that explanations of the letters are obtainable at the Central and Branch office of the Sanitary Board, and that the inspectors be instructed to see to such translations and explanations.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded and it was carried.

APPLICATIONS.

The following applications were refused:—Application for exemption from carrying out certain works in respect of the maf-o's quarters in the stables on Kowloon Inland Lot No. 525. Application for a modification of the requirements in respect of Nos. 408 to 426, Des Vaux Road West.

SHAM SHUI PO MARKET.

Mr. Adam Gibson, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, wrote:—The ground surface of the Sham Shui Po Market is in a very bad condition. There are no proper channels for the surface water and it forms pools here and there and is very offensive. The whole surface ought to be levelled and concreted, and side channels made. I understand that the Government has not as yet taken over this market, but that the *kaifong* of the village arranges the letting of the spaces and collects rents. These, it is said, amount to from \$20 to \$30 per annum according to their position. I beg to suggest that the *kaifong* be approached to see if they are willing to do something to improve the present state of affairs, and if not the Government take over the place and put it in a sanitary condition. I do not suggest that a market should be erected there in the meantime, but simply that the ground surface be made impervious to water and vermin and that the occupants erect their own fittings as is done at present.

The Registrar General minuted:—It is out of the question getting the *kaifong* to do anything unless they can be guaranteed the revenue from these stalls for some time. I hear the annual revenue amounts to between \$200 and \$250 and goes to religious ceremonies and the upkeep of the temple.

The PRESIDENT—Sham Shui Po market is in an insanitary condition. The building is owned by a committee of the inhabitants of Kowloon City. Something has to be done.

The REGISTRAR GENERAL—I think we ought to ask the Government to have the surface levelled and concreted, and to allow these people to put up stalls there as usual—to put the place in a sanitary condition at the cost of the Government. The cost would not be much. I move accordingly.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded and it was carried.

OPIUM DIVANS AND LAUNDRIES.

Re an application for the ground floor of a house in McGregor Street to be registered as a public laundry the Registrar General minuted:—How many public laundries are there in Victoria, and how many opium divans? This fad of having the floors of these places concreted, quite a new one, will result in the ground floors of Victoria being monopolised by these licensed premises. The next thing will be a recommendation that all lodging-house floors be concreted.

The President replied:—

Total Chinese houses	8,476
laundries	37
opium divans	68

This represents 1.2 per cent.

WATER ANALYSES

The Government Analyst's (Mr. Frank Brown) reports for the month of March show that the water of the various public supplies is of excellent quality.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics for the week ended the 18th March, show the following figures at a death rate per thousand per annum:—British and foreign community, 34.9; previous week, 9.9; corresponding week last year, 10.3. Chinese population, 15.2; previous week, 14.7; corresponding week last year, 13.0.

LIMEWASHING RETURN.

The limewashing return for the fortnight ended the 28th March, shows that 4,260 houses were treated in the eastern district and 3,534 in the central district.

RAT RETURN.

During the week ended the 1st April, 468 rats (23 being infected) were caught in Victoria, and 213 (18 infected) at Kowloon.

SUPREME COURT.

—:—

Wednesday, 5th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BAKERLEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA V. P. LEMAIRE AND COMPANY.

This was an application to amend the statement of claim in the action, National Bank of China, Limited, v. P. Lemaire and Company, by adding a claim against the defendants as acceptors of a Bill of Exchange. The application was originally made in chambers, and adjourned. Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. N. Ferrers (instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett) for the defendants.

Mr. Ferrers submitted the amendment should not be allowed on the ground that there had been undue delay and further, that should the amendment be granted it would place the defendants in such a position that no order that could be made by the Chief Justice would compensate them. The statement of claim was for \$10,000 on a promissory note; the defence was (1) no consideration and (2) the promissory note was invalid owing to noncompliance with the Stamp Ordinance, in-as-much that the note was altered after issue without restamping. The note was altered by the defendants at the plaintiffs' request. To the defendants' defence that there was no consideration the plaintiffs replied that the consideration was that they (the plaintiffs) refrained from suing for a previous security. Now, the plaintiffs wished to add an alternative claim against the defendants as acceptor of a Bill of Exchange referred to in the plaintiffs' reply. He contended that at this stage, the pleadings having been closed and evidence taken, the plaintiffs were not entitled to an amendment. If the original Bill of Exchange had been proceeded on in October last they could have paid the Bill and have had recourse to suing the drawers, E. Piry and Co. The drawers were now, however, bankrupt.

The application was granted, costs, however, being given for the defendants.

Thursday, 6th April.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BAKERLEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

YEE FAT BANK EX PARTE YEUNG TSO CHOI.
This was a petition for a receiving order. After Mr. G. K. Hall-Brutton (who appeared for the petitioning creditor) explained that the bank had suspended payment on the 23rd March, His Lordship made a receiving order, appointing the Official Receiver (Mr. G. H. Wakeman) trustee.

HO SAM EXPARTE THE INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION.

The debtor had absconded and a warrant had been issued for his arrest. Mr. H. G. C. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) applied for adjudication. This was granted, the Official Receiver being appointed trustee.

HANG ON EXPARTE LAUTS, WEGENER AND CO.

In this case Mr. R. Harding made an application in respect of costs which went against the debtor in an action. He was subsequently adjudged bankrupt without notice to his client. An order was made.

WAI YUEN EXPARTE THE DEBTOR.

Mr. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) stated that this was an application for a receiving order. The application, and declaration as to the debtor's assets, had been put on the file.

An order was made, the official receiver being appointed trustee.

The Official Receiver—May I ask the debtor a question or two?

His Lordship—No, this can only be done at a public examination, and an order has now been made. You can summon him to your office and ask him any questions you like.

Mr. Dixon—The debtor has been in prison for the last three weeks on account of an action in original jurisdiction. I brought him here, on a writ of *habeas corpus*, so as to obtain his release. Your order was for him to find \$5,000 security or to go to prison till the Official Receiver was satisfied that he made a true statement as to his affairs.

His Lordship to prisoner—If you want to come out of prison you must communicate with the Official Receiver and make a full declaration of your property.

On the application of Mr. Dixon the debtor was allowed fourteen days instead of seven after the receiving order was made to file a statement of his assets.

JAMES CHRISTIE EXPARTE THE DEBTOR.

This was a public examination by the Official Receiver. Mr. M. J. D. Stephens appeared on behalf of the Victoria Dispensary, Mr. H. G. C. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) on behalf of Messrs. MacEwen, Frickel and Company, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) on behalf of Messrs. Radecker and Company, and Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton for the debtor.

James Christie said:—I am the late proprietor of the Metropole Hotel, of the Bay View Hotel and of the Praya East Hotel. I commenced business on my own account in December 1902. Before that I was licensee of the Praya East Hotel, where I was paid a salary of \$150 a month all found. I commenced business in the Bay View Hotel in 1902 with \$3,500 capital. I was in partnership with Mr. Downes. We took over the place from Mr. Osborne. Mr. Downes contributed about \$900. I carried on the business from December 1902 till March 1904. Mr. Downes left in March 1903 on account of sickness, when I paid him \$2,000 for his share. At the start I did not pay out all my money. Each of us paid Mr. Osborne about \$900. All along the business was not paying. Altogether I paid out the \$3,500, of which \$1,160 was for stock. A Portuguese clerk kept the books. I paid \$1,883 on account for the Praya East Hotel. There was an agreement that if the license money was raised Mr. Walpole would take back the business, and the license was put up from \$600 to \$1,800. This business was losing all through the summer of 1903, no fleet being in. When I was at the Praya East Mr. Collins was managing the Bay View. I went there twice or three times a week. I knew the place was not paying. That is the reason Mr. Collins left, and I took the place over in November. I paid to Mr. Collins \$150 a month. I did not leave the Praya East till December, 1903, when I put a manager in and went to the Bay View. I had to leave the Bay View in March 1904, on account of the Government taking it over to turn it into a Police Station. I then took over the Metropole, paying \$1,800 for repairs. I paid down two months' rent in advance. There was no furniture there so I removed that from the Bay View. The average takings at the Metropole were \$2,300 per month. There was a bill of sale for \$2,500 for the furniture in the Metropole. My liabilities amount to \$21,072.

Out of this \$7,042 is owing to Messrs. Price and Company for goods supplied in 1904, both for the Bay View and Metropole. Another \$1,500 is owing to Foo Sik for repairs. My monthly expenses were \$50 or \$60. All the money was lost in the business.

By Mr. Stephens—I cannot say how much I was indebted when I left the Bay View, but should put it at about \$2,400. I had the promise of a man going in partnership with me for \$15,000, but this man did not turn up.

Mr. Stephens—You started the Metropole with a debt of \$2,400?

Witness—I could have money and yet owe money.

Mr. Stephens—In your letter to the Victoria Dispensary putting off payment you said you were incurring no new debt.

Witness—Not with the Victoria Dispensary.

Continuing—I went to Shanghai for matrimonial reasons. I do not reside with my wife, and have not made her any allowance since October last. Previous to that I allowed her £8 a month.

Mr. Brutton objected to the question "What did you go to Shanghai for?" saying:—Ask about the money but not about the man's private affairs.

Witness—I went to Shanghai for a month because my wife returned to Hongkong. She was sent back to Australia.

Continuing—All the money I have earned from boxing has been put in the business. I have not made allowances to any female. I have given men \$5 and \$10 when they were hard up.

Mr. Stephens—You say so.

Witness—I am speaking the truth. You don't think if I had the money I would come here to go into bankruptcy.

Continuing—I paid the Victoria Dispensary as much as \$1,115 in one account.

Mr. Stephens—Was it not \$6,000 you owed when you took over the Metropole?

Witness—Not that I know.

Mr. Stephens—Have you any proposal to make?

Witness—No, I have nothing and may be here months before I get a job.

By Mr. Bowley—I commenced business at the Bay View with \$3,500. Since then I carried profits from the boxing contests into the business. We paid nothing to Mr. Osborne for good-will but only two months' rent down. When Mr. Downes left I paid \$2,000 for his share in a losing business, because another man was prepared to pay this, and the place was supposed to pay well in summer. I paid the \$2,000 really on account of the good-will of the business. I kept a day book at the Bay View and Metropole Hotels, but had to trust to the boy at the Praya East Hotel. I entered the total receipts of this Hotel into a book at the end of each day. I had to pay \$175 to Mr. Walpole in addition to the house rent for the good-will of the business. This arrangement continued till October 1904. When I went to the Metropole I had about \$2,000 in cash. Up to the end of March 1904 I incurred a total loss of \$10,400. I was not heavily in debt otherwise, because I had a couple of boxing contests with side bets of \$1,000 and also the gate receipts. I had the promise of a partner. I paid \$3,000 for the painting and decorating, and ran up a large bill for furniture. The monthly rent of the Metropole is \$400. I spent close on \$3,500 for the new furniture. The furniture from the Bay View and Praya East which I brought to the Metropole would be worth four to five thousand dollars. I raised a bill of sale on the total furniture for \$2,500. When sold the furniture realised \$3,056. When I filed my petition I estimated my assets at \$15,000, \$10,000, being for furniture and \$5,000, for chits. I left for Shanghai on the 16th November last. Before I left I knew a writ for \$3,800, had been served on Mr. Brutton, my solicitor. I returned on the 8th or 10th December. I was not pressed by my creditors when I left. Foo Sik said he would take so much every month. The only amount owing to Cheong Lee was for seats put in the theatre. The stage was there before, and I collected scenery gradually. The seats cost \$900. I took the lease of the Metropole in my own name. First I made an agreement with one man but would not take him when I found out who he was, and then another man came

along. The license for the Metropole, is the same as that for the Bay View, \$1,800.

By Mr. Bailey—Between January and November 1904 I obtained liquor from Price and Company, and from MacEwen, Frickel and Company to the total value of \$10,282. This amount has not been paid. I made a small profit on the liquor. I cannot say exactly what the profit was, as some men take six peps out of a bottle and others thirteen (Laughter). The profit would be about 25 per cent, but the rent, license, lights and boys' wages swamped this. I went on because I had the promise of a partner.

Mr. Bailey—You knew you were insolvent when you left the Bay View and still went on?

Witness—Yes.

Continuing—Since I left the Metropole I have fought with McCoy and a soldier, and thus made money. Now I am living on a friend. I gave a cheque for \$500 to Foo Sik which was dishonoured. I did not know I had no money left in the bank. I have had an offer of \$40,000 for the Metropole, but refused because I had the offer of a partner. It would have been to the benefit of my creditors and myself had I accepted the offer, but I took the other man's word of honour as a gentleman.

By Mr. Stephens—I have not sent away bank drafts except the drafts of £8 to my wife.

By Mr. Bowley—When the customers heard I was in bankruptcy they would not pay their book debts, which amount to \$4,000. The debts from debtors in town can be realized, and I think 90 per cent of them are in town.

Mr. Brutton—I apply that the debtor be adjudged bankrupt and that the official receiver be appointed trustee.

There being no objection the application was granted.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUISNE JUDGE.)

B. FREIWALD VOLJACEK AND E. PILLIS V.
WILLY VON UFFEL.

These were claims for \$400 and \$250 respectively. Mr. H. W. Looker, (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. Hursthouse (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) for the defendant.

Mr. Looker set out the facts of the claims as follows:—The \$400 is owing by the defendant to Mr. Voljacek for services done between the 16th September and the 10th January. In 1903 the firm of Schwer Uffel was started here. The concern had four partners, three in Europe and one here, the defendant, the managing partner. It was an ordinary mercantile firm getting goods from home and selling them to Chinese. The firm possessed a private code so as to enable it to order goods by telegram. At the end of the first year the balance sheet showed a loss, and the business was not being conducted to the satisfaction of the partners at home. They made various complaints, later wrote a specific letter stating their various reasons for complaint, and finally issued a writ. A part of the agreement between the defendant and his other partners was that all goods should be ordered through the three partners at home. It was also a part of the agreement that if the business was prospering the defendant should be entitled to call out more capital. If the business showed a loss of fifty per cent. the partners at home should be entitled to retire. In September last Mr. Voljacek was engaged as book-keeper by the defendant. Just about this time the partners at home were complaining about the management of defendant and the state of affairs of the business, and had been writing out threatening to bring an action. As soon as the defendant engaged the plaintiff he asked him about this action, and from that day till the 12th January he was constantly engaged perusing all the correspondence to make replies, making extracts from the books, and generally employed to meet the charges by the defendant's partners, to enable the defendant to lay the facts of the case before his solicitors. The defendant went to Shanghai, and after he came back in September a writ was served upon him by the Austrian Consul. It contained eight various counts on which the partners in Europe sought

dissolution. It was necessary to make a reply to this writ, and this was done by the plaintiff. It took a lot of time and the plaintiff worked every day after office hours, from five to seven, and after dinner till almost midnight. The defendant again went to Shanghai in December and finally came back and the plaintiff prepared the answer to send to the defendant's solicitors in Hamburg. The defendant on several occasions promised the plaintiff that he would be well compensated, but all the plaintiff received was \$100. It appears that after the defendant had seen his solicitors in Shanghai he called upon his partners at home to put up more capital, and this, it would seem, was a good move. The defendant commenced to make a new private code, and in this respect also got the plaintiff's assistance. The plaintiff put the addresses of the defendant's partners on the front of this, but the defendant told him to scratch these out, so the work was not for the old firm but for a new firm. The plaintiff got no compensation whatever except various small sums which he drew from the Comptadore, totalling \$100. The claim is for \$500, less \$100 the rate being a dollar an hour for the overtime private work for the plaintiff. Mr. E. Pillis was also employed on the private code, his claim being for \$250. Evidence for the plaintiffs was led. The case was adjourned.

COMPANIES.

THE YANGTSZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LD.

The report for presentation to the fifteenth ordinary general meeting of shareholders, to be held at Shanghai on 11th April, reads:—

The board of directors have now the pleasure to submit to the shareholders the annual report and audited statement of accounts and balance sheet to the 31st December, 1904.

Working account 1903 and former years.—This account shows a credit balance of \$238,190.62 against \$155,428.17 on 31st December, 1903. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend to shareholders of 20 per cent. out of this account and the transfer of \$50,000 to the credit of reserve fund and \$50,000 for the formation of a reinsurance fund. The account will then stand as follows:—

Dividend of 20 per cent.—	
(\$12 per share)	\$96,000.00
To reserve fund	50,000.00
To reinsurance fund	50,000.00
Balance carried forward	42,190.62
	\$238,190.62

Working account 1904.—The net premium earned during 1904, after deducting return premium, reinsurance premium, &c., amount to \$1,110,534.86 against \$859,819.47 during 1903 and the account shows a balance at credit of \$623,364.95. As the balance at credit of this account is unusually large and the liability for unexpired risks against same is not exceptionally heavy, the directors recommend the payment of a special dividend to shareholders of 5 per cent. —\$3 per share, which will absorb \$24,000 to be paid out of interest earned during 1904, and to carry forward the balance which will then amount to \$599,364.95.

The dividends will be paid in taels at Exch. 73, \$15 per share at Exch. 73—Tls. 10.95 per share.

RESERVE FUND.—After crediting this fund with \$50,000 as recommended above, the reserve fund will amount to \$750,000.

EXCHANGE AND INVESTMENT FLUCTUATION ACCOUNT.—Owing to the high rate of sterling exchange and the depreciation in value of the association's sterling and eastern investments, on the 31st December last, it has been necessary to debit this account with \$31,903.81, leaving a balance of \$5,890.48 at credit of same.

Sterling exchange has been taken at 2/9½ per tael (the demand rate on 31st December, 1904), and the relative value between dollars and taels at 73.

INVESTMENTS.—The value on 31st December last has been taken for all the association's investments.

DIRECTORS.—Mr. D. W. Gilmour and Mr. C. W. Wrightson having resigned their seats on the Board owing to their departure from Shanghai, Mr. E. B. Skottowe was invited to rejoin the Board in the place of Mr. Gilmour, and Mr. Robert I. Fearon was invited to fill Mr. Wrightson's vacant seat on the Board. Mr. Skottowe and Mr. Fearon offer themselves for election at the meeting of shareholders, and, in accordance with the Articles of Association, the other directors all retire from Office, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.—Mr. H. Trevor-Guerrier having resigned the association's auditorship owing to his departure from Shanghai, the board of directors appointed Mr. G. H. Thomson, Chartered accountant, to audit the Accounts now presented. Mr. G. H. Thomson offers himself for election as auditor.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

Gentlemen,—The directors submit to you the annexed statement of the liabilities and assets of the Bank, and profit and loss account for the half-year, ending December 31st, 1904.

The gross profits of the Bank for the past half-year, including Yen 527,000.558 brought forward from last accounts, amount to Yen 7,915,988.428, of which Yen 6,006,068.045 have been deducted for current expenses, interests, &c., leaving a balance of Yen 1,909,922.383.

The directors now propose that Yen 200,000 be added to the reserve fund, raising it to Yen 9,720,000, and that Yen 100,000 be placed to the silver funds. From the remainder the Directors recommend a dividend at the rate of twelve per cent., per annum, which will absorb Yen 720,000 on old shares and Yen 360,000 on new shares, making a total of Yen 1,080,000.

The balance, Yen 529,922.383 will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

NAGATANE SOMA, Chairman.

The accounts are as follows:— BALANCE-SHEET. 31st December, 1904.

	Yen.
LIABILITIES.	
Capital paid up	18,000,000.000
Reserve fund	9,520,000.000
Reserve for doubtful debts	282,705.720
Reserve for depreciation of bank's premises, properties, furniture, etc.	152,448.700
Reserve for silver funds	500,000.000
Deposits (current, fixed, etc.)	70,545,217.209
Bills payable, bills re-discounted, acceptances, and other sums due by the bank	183,190,773.644
Dividends unclaimed	5,365.520
Amount brought forward from last account	527,000.558
Net profit for the past half-year	1,382,921.825
	Yen 234,056,468.176

	Yen.
ASSETS.	
Cash account:—	
In hand	6,492,514.392
At bankers	9,454,281.210
	15,946,796.202
Investments in public securities	21,162,896.510
Bills discounted, loans, advances, &c.	55,477,649.210
Bills receivable and other sums due to the bank	139,258,708.834
Bullion and foreign money	390,511.240
Bank's premises, properties, furniture, &c.	1,820,401.180
	Yen 234,056,468.176

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	Yen.
To current expenses, interests, &c.	6,006,068.045
To reserve fund	200,000.000
To reserve for silver funds	100,000.000
To dividend—	
Yen 6.000 per share for 120,000 old shares—yen 720,000.000; and yen 3.000 per share for 120,000 new shares—yen 360,000.000	1,080,000.000
To balance carried forward to next account	529,922.383
	Yen 7,915,988.428
By balance brought forward 30th June, 1904	527,000.558
By amount of gross profits for the half-year, ending 31st December, 1904	7,388,987.870
	Yen 7,915,988.428

THE YANGTSZE WHARF AND GODOWN CO., LD.

The fourth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Yangtze Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., was held at the Office of the General Agents, Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., Shanghai, on the 26th March, Mr. M. March in the chair.

There were present:—Mr. R. Lemke and Captain B. Kohler, Directors, Mr. C. Landgraf, Secretary, Messrs. J. Stampff, C. Hoffmann and Ed. Krietsch, representing 1,591 shares.

The Chairman—The General Agent's Report and Statement of accounts for the past year have been in your hands for sometime and with your permission I will take same as read. The year's working has again been a very satisfactory one as shown by the fact that your Directors have again been able to recommend the payment of a dividend of 18 per cent. The increase of business has made it imperative to erect a new shed of the following dimensions 200' by 100' metal roofed which is on the point of completion and which will serve mainly as a transit shed. Our buildings, pontoons, lighters etc., have all been kept in first class order and the cost of doing so has, as in past years, been defrayed out of current receipts without encroaching on the amount at credit of repairs account. The repair account has been altered to reserve account and same has been strengthened by setting aside a further Tls. 11,500, so that it now stands at Tls. 17,500. As regards our property on the Yangtsze Road there is nothing new to report to-day. I am confident however that the authorities will not allow the question of the Conservancy of the Huangpu to be shelved, but I trust on the contrary that we are nearing the time when we shall see this most important matter vigorously taken in hand. Our Manager, Mr. Rogers, and our staff at the Wharf have attended to their work with their usual energy, and to their efforts the success of the past year's working is due to a large extent. It will be gratifying to you to learn that the outlook for the year 1905 is as satisfactory as we could wish for. Mr. Charles Rayner having left Shanghai on a well-earned holiday, Mr. M. March has taken over the duties of a Director and Chairman of the Board as per § 117 of the Articles of Association. Before moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts I shall be pleased to answer any question which shareholders may wish to put.

No questions having been asked the following resolutions were put and carried unanimously:—

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Lemke:—That the report and accounts as presented be approved and passed.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Captain Kohler:—That a dividend of 18 per cent., equal to Tls. 18 per share be paid.

Proposed by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Krietsch:—That Mr. Lemke and Capt. Kohler be re-elected directors.

Proposed by Mr. Hoffmann, second by Mr. Landgraf:—That Mr. G. Willeumier be re-elected Auditor.

LAUNCH WRECKED AT SHANGHAI.

FOUR MEN DROWNED.

FOREIGN CHILDREN'S NARROW ESCAPE.

The N.C. Daily News reports that about 5 p.m. on 30th March Messrs. Farnham, Boyd & Co.'s launch Douglas, which runs between the various docks with passengers, was sunk by collision with a large sailing vessel. At the time of the accident the trip was being made from the Old Dock to the Cosmopolitan Dock. The launch usually in charge had given over temporary command to another who appears to have been wanting in experience. The collision took place near the International Dock and the launch sank in about half a minute. There were on board at the time the three children of Mr. Todd, and the three children of Mrs. Rasmussen, and they would almost certainly have been drowned but for the presence of mind of the old-st, Peter Todd, aged thirteen. Seeing that the launch was doomed, young Peter hailed a sampan which was fortunately close by, and just had time to get his young companions and himself on board. A Chinese cruiser near also lowered a boat, but too late to save four Chinese on the launch who were drowned.

MORE ABOUT HONGKONG'S MEAT SUPPLY.

A cattle man interviewed on April 3 expressed himself as follows:—

There has been, of late, a heavy decrease in the amount of cattle exported from Hongkong to Manila. As a matter of fact there was a decrease in 1904, but nothing like the present decrease. (Mr. Adam Gibson, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, interviewed, admitted the decrease but refused to give figures. By his reports 31,598 cattle were exported in 1904 as against 34,907 in 1903, a decrease of over 3,000 head. The actual decrease in revenue under this head, at fifty cents for each of the cattle exported, would be \$1,654.50.)

As the number of cattle imported to Manila from North China and elsewhere is not on the increase, the only explanation for the decrease here is that the importation of frozen meat into Manila is on the increase. There has been some talk about frozen beef being imported into Manila at 2½ (five cents gold) per lb., and, though this is quite feasible, up to the present the arrangement applies only to government contract, and not to meat for the market. This is quite evident by the fact that a considerable amount of China beef, inferior to Australian beef, is still exported from Hongkong. The present live weight selling rate at the Kennedy Town Cattle Depot varies from 8½ to 9½ cents per lb. These cattle have to be taken from the depot to the wharf, and thence to the steamer in a junk. The freight to Manila is \$7½, and the beasts have to be fed en route. It must cost at least \$10 a head to land them at Manila. Then there is the landing fee at Manila, *cumsha* to the first mate of the steamer for looking after the cattle (this is the custom), and the Hongkong middle-man's profit. The Manila minor officials, it is alleged, levy "squeeze." If the "squeeze" is good the cattle go straight to the slaughter house, but if not they may have to be fed for some days. Numbers of cattle, moreover, die on the steamer. Allowing that the importer makes a profit, the price of beef at Manila must be at least one shilling per pound and not 2½d.

It is a curious fact that though the live weight price per lb. for beef in Hongkong has risen from 7 and 7½ cents in 1904 to 8½ to 9½ cents at present, the number of cattle obtainable is believed to be as big as ever, and the amount exported has decreased. The same applies to the rise in mutton, and the only explanation is that Hongkong being such an isolated spot, the Chinese, mandarins and others, see a means of levying a good "squeeze."

Interrogated as to his opinion of the Dairy Farm Company he said:—If the Dairy Farm Company increased its capital and its shares were wider spread, this might be a means of breaking up the Chinese guilds, but at present it is more expensive than the others. It charges 30 cents per lb. for beef, 7½d., and the Chinese only charge 22 cents, 5d. Now it only costs 3½d. per lb. to land Australian frozen beef in England, and to land same at Hongkong should only cost 2½d per lb. Allowing the Dairy Farm Company a penny extra, as they may not be doing this sort of business on a very large scale, they must be making a remarkable profit.

The Chinese charge 28 cents per lb., 7d., for mutton, and, as it only costs 4½d. per lb. to land Australian frozen mutton in England, it ought to be landed at Hongkong for about 3d. or 3½d. per lb.

THE ABOVE ANSWERED.

If the statements appearing in our Tuesday's issue on the authority of "A Hongkong Cattle Man" respecting the prices at which the Dairy Company are able to purchase frozen meat in Australia are correct, the public would agree with "Cattle-man" that the Dairy Farm Company must be making very substantial profits. But Mr. Seth, the Secretary of the Company, in an interview, traversed "the Cattleman's" facts, and smiled at his conclusions. The Dairy Farm Company, said the "Cattle-man," charges 30 cents per lb. for beef, while the Chinese butchers charge only 22 cents.

Mr. Seth explains that the charge of 30 cents is for prime cuts only; and the Chinese also

charge 30 cents for prime cuts. Dairy Farm prices range from 30 cents to 16 cents while Chinese prices range from 30 cents to 14 cents.

"Cattle-man" argued that as it costs only 3½d. per lb. to land Australian frozen beef in England, it should cost only 2½d. per lb. to land it in Hongkong. As a matter of fact, Mr. Seth says, the freight to London is one quarter of what it is to Hongkong, so that the c.i.f. value in Hongkong would be higher than in London without taking into account the larger shipments made to London which would enable purchases to be made on more favourable terms than could be secured for such consignments as would meet the requirements of Hongkong.

Mr. Seth added that his Company had never yet been able to buy in Australia at 2½d. per lb. the quality of mutton and beef imported by them. He further pointed out that in his estimate of what the price should be "Cattleman" had not taken into his consideration the large percentage of waste when a carcass is cut up.

When everything is considered the conclusion is reached that the Dairy Farm are retailing frozen meat at as low a figure as they can possibly afford, and we believe we are not mistaken in saying though freight is so much dearer to Hongkong than to London, the meat is retailed at lower rates here than in England.

ARMED ROBBERY.

Chan Kong Fuk was on April 5th charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp in connection with an armed robbery which occurred at Kwai Li Village in the New Territory on the 22nd March. A number of men entered a house and carried off clothing, money and jewellery to the value of over \$500. The robbers climbed on top of the house from the courtyard and made a hole in the roof. On getting inside they tied up the master of the house and subsequently secured and gagged the rest of the family. One of the robbers seized a chopper and threatened to chop up the master if he did not tell where his money was. They then broke open several boxes in the sleeping apartments and carried off their contents. Afterwards one of the children succeeded in freeing herself and then untied the rest of the family.

The case was remanded.

MAHOMEDANISM IN CHINA.

Mr. J. Dyer Ball on April 2nd lectured on Mahomedanism in China. Extracts from his very interesting lecture are as follows:—

From the deck of the Canton steamer as you near Canton city, threading your way through the busy throngs of junks, boats and sampans, you notice two pagodas raising their slender shafts towards the sky, right in the very heart of the old city itself. One is the usual pagoda, so common in China and so picturesque, adding an air of piquancy to the landscape; and the other very dissimilar, not broken into nine stories as the Flowery Pagoda. It is really not a pagoda at all, but a smooth round tower of considerable height on the top of which is another smaller tower, or minaret. There is a staircase inside, by which ascent could be made to the summit, but this is kept closed.

Close by the tower is a building, the architectural features of which are those of a Chinese temple, but no idols are enshrined within its courts. As one looks into the large main hall one sees a pulpit in the corner. On the walls inscriptions are seen. In large Arabic characters the principal article of the Mahomedan creed is emblazoned forth—"There is but one God, and Mahomet is his prophet."

In the main hall there is an altar, on which appears a green tablet inscribed in letters of gold "May the Emperor live for ever, for ever and ever." Incense is burned before this, and it is said adoration is paid to it. That Mahomedans should so far forget one of their first principles is wonderful. It is not surprising that Buddhist and Taoist monasteries should have such tablets for worship, for they are idolatrous systems, but Mahomedans—

The Chinese government, however, insists upon this, and Christianity is the only religion in China which has refused this act of adoration to a human being. The Mahomedans in China

appear to have somewhat pliable consciences. This pliability of conscience has its sanction in the Koran, for Mahomet touched by the imprisonments, tortures and sufferings his disciples permitted, as by Divine revelation, converts, under certain circumstances, to deny their faith so long as their hearts were steadfast in it.

This mosque was erected during the 7th Century A.D. There are four other mosques in Canton, where, altogether, there are 3,000 Mahomedans.

Were we to visit these places at the hour of prayer we would at first sight fancy we saw Arabians at their prayers; as the bright colours of the Chinese robes and jackets are changed at such times to long white robes, and turbans of the same colour cover the head. The wearers prostrate themselves to the West towards their holy city, Mecca. Schools are attached to these mosques where the children of Mahomedan parents are taught to read the Koran.

Arab traders visited China many years ago and the trade between China and the Arabian Sea caused them to even settle in China, particularly at seaports such as Canton and Hangchow. The most sacred of the mosques in Canton is one on the north gate of the city. Here there is a small graveyard where the remains of the earliest arrivals of these Arab traders, and missionaries combined, have rested for more than a dozen centuries.

The introduction of Islamism into China was gradual, and for this reason there is difficulty in naming any exact date.

In early days the Mahomedans did not all come as traders, for, as a reward for their assistance in quelling a rebellion, a force of Arab soldiers sent for that purpose were permitted to make China their home.

The famous city of Hangchow is one of the strongholds of Islamism in China.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MAHOMEDANISM IN CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 3rd April.

SIR,—May I, as an admirer of the most pure form of monotheism extant, take exception to parts of Mr. J. Dyer Ball's last lecture, as reported in your deservedly popular journal? You will permit me to observe that it is a subject of some public interest locally, as Mr. Ball states there are two or three hundred purely Chinese Mahomedans in Hongkong, and I understand that those figures do not include half the followers of Islam who are to be numbered in our community.

The part to which I object, as unworthy Mr. Ball's reputation, is that where he mentions the altar in the main hall of the mosque at Canton. On that altar is a tablet wishing longevity to the Chinese Emperor, placed there by order of the Chinese Government. Mr. Ball says "Incense is burned before this, and it is said adoration is paid to it."

May I ask Mr. Ball who says adoration is paid to that tablet? I say that no Mahomedan adores it, any more than any Christian adores the Holy Table or Altar in any church which Mr. Ball may frequent.

Although Mr. Ball offers no more than a mere "it is said," he is ungenerous enough to comment further, "that Mahomedans should so far forget one of their first principles is wonderful." "Christianity is the only religion in China which has refused this act of adoration to a human being," and (most ungenerous of all) "the Mahomedans in China appear to have somewhat pliable consciences."

What shall I say of Mr. Ball's Christian conscience which permits him to say so much on the strength of "it is said"?

Mr. Ball is correct in saying that Mahomet, in Al Koran, gives his followers, in certain circumstances, a certain latitude. Under stress, they may deny with their lips what their heart believes in, and that without sin. But Al Koran is not alone in this. Mr. Ball's Bible has a story of a man converted to Judaism who had permission to bow down in "the House of Rimmon."

Mistake not this. Our brethren of Islam at Canton do not bow down to nor adore that Imperial tablet. They are not compelled to do so. Imperial command willed its presence there; and they but render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. Until Mr. Ball brings more evidence than he has done to show that Mohammedans (or, to retain his alternative spelling, Mahomedans) adore a tablet, he rests under the stigma of being unjust for prejudice's sake, and owes an apology to those who, after all, worship quite as sincerely, and much more rationally, than his own people do. "Not less elevated are the silent prayers and the simple devotional acts of the Koran when compared with. . . ." [some others not necessary to name. Ed.]

EX-TITHEIST.

[The spelling "Mahomedans" is not Mr. Ball's. We are responsible for it. "Mahomet" seemed more familiar than "Mohammed," so we preferred the form used in reporting the lecture. We hope that in publishing the above letter, there will be no risk of arousing the *odium theologium*. We have suppressed part of the conclusion in this hope. Those who have read the well-known chapter in Carlyle's "Heroes" will, like ourselves, sympathise somewhat with our correspondent's point of view. Perhaps Professor Ball will try to support his statement with regard to the practice at Canton? We have a poor opinion of Chinese converts to any faith; but understand that it is scarcely a question of converts, Mahomedanism ranking now as one of the native religions. Ed.]

A LABOUR DIFFICULTY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—With regard to the recent articles and correspondence in the *Daily Press* relative to the all round "squeeze" I should like to emphasise its seriousness on the Colony's immediate and future trade prospects. The increase in the price of rents together with the extensive emigration of late has made the cost of Chinese coolie and skilled labour very much greater. Our success as a manufacturing centre solely depends on the cheapness of our labour. Unlike our neighbours in China, and our formidable rivals in Japan, all our rough material has and will have to be imported, so the handicap, a big one at present, promises, unless there is some way of solving the problem, to throw us in the background altogether. Hongkong's only natural produce is a little granite (I will give the timber a rest). Our shipping yards of late have experienced the greatest difficulty in obtaining Chinese apprentices, the youths complaining that the allowance, formerly considered liberal, is not sufficient to keep them. I have been given to understand that other businesses are in a similar plight. Something really must be done.—Yours, etc.

SHIPWRIGHT.

THE S.S. "KONGNAM" ASHORE.

On April 5th, about five minutes to nine, at about high water, the West River boat *Kongnam* (owned by Wilks & Co.) went ashore on Mah-wan Island, in Pirate Bay, beyond Capsuimun Pass. Apparently she must have left her course, which should have taken her along Capsuimun to the west of Mah-wan, where the white lights have been changed for a red light, which some of the seafaring folk do not find so helpful.

When the s.s. *Hankow* was coming in from Canton on April 5, those on board heard a lot of whistling, and on picking up Green Island light, hauling up the middle of the Pass, they could see the steamer ashore on Mah-wan. She was burning deck flares, and firing off rockets. On clearing the pass, the *Hankow* sent off a boat in charge of Mr. Willoughby, second mate, to render assistance. He went on board, and found that the *Kongnam* was plowed forward, with six feet of water in the forward hold. He could step from the bow on to the rocks. The wrecked crew includes three Europeans. At low water there is danger of the water breaking through the bulkheads and spilling cargo; but the ship is believed to be safe enough from further hurt.

It is now gleaned that she is about three parts full of water. Her cargo consists of about 200 tons of general merchandise and must be badly damaged. The *Kongnam* is a steamer of 400 tons burden. Messrs Wilks & Co., her owners, expect to be able to get her off the rocks when the necessary appliances are conveyed to the wreck.

A VERY SUSPICIOUS CASE.

FIRE AND INSURANCE.

Mr. W. H. T. Davis, the chairman of the Fire Association, on April 4 unfolded to a *Daily Press* reporter a tale of a very suspicious case. As we are advised that no charge can be laid against the man concerned, we are obliged to refrain from publishing many of the particulars gleaned.

It appears, however, that a certain fire insurance policy has been cancelled, in consequence of trustworthy information received from the police.

The insurer was, as a matter of course, a Chinese tradesman. He not only removed the bulk of his goods, but he also advised his tenants on another floor to move. Neighbours, learning this, and fearing for their own safety, gave information to the police.

The police went to the house and found all things ready for a pretty blaze. Two hundred dollars worth of goods were left to be burned, and these were insured for more than ten times their value.

Inspector Collett left a constable in charge, and communicated with Mr. Davis, who himself visited the place, and found a lot of shavings on an upper floor, all the shutters closed, and the insured stock-in-trade depleted as reported.

He spoke warmly of Inspector Collett and the police, but for whom more fires would occur. If there is any way of punishing the rascal concerned, by banishment or otherwise, we hope it will be availed of.

THE RETIREMENT OF SIR HIRAM S. WILKINSON.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—After nearly forty-one years of most faithful service to his country in the Far East, Sir Hiram Shaw Wilkinson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of China and Corea laid down his office, and bade farewell to the Bar in the Court on March 31st. From student interpreter he rose through all the ranks to Acting Consul in Japan, passing through and being an actor in the stirring times that preceded the restoration. He came to Shanghai as Acting Assistant Judge in 1899, and was Crown Advocate here, and Acting and Substantive Judge in Japan, closing a brilliant career during which he has made crowds of friends, as the last of our Chief Justices. He retires full of years and honours indeed, but in full bodily and mental vigour, and when the time comes for his departure for home he will be followed by such tributes of respect and affection as none of his predecessors has ever earned in large measure, and as his successors will be fortunate if they gather as fully. In him we lose a good and faithful friend, and a most able, earnest, and conscientious Judge, as well as a strong link with the days of Sir Rutherford Alcock, Sir Harry Parkes and the great British Proconsuls of the past. The melancholy that must cling round such a ceremony was brightened by the exceeding gracefulness of the speeches that were made to and by Sir Hiram, speeches that were evidently heartfelt, in which there was not the slightest jarring note, and the tone of which will be echoed by all in the East who know Sir Hiram. Warmhearted, kind, courteous, and obliging to all, he has made himself a home in all our hearts; he has identified himself with the best interests of Yokohama and Shanghai, and we shall long miss him; and the consciousness of this will, we hope, do something to mitigate the sorrow he must feel at leaving the bench he has so adorned.

Mr. Platt, acting crown advocate, and Mr. W. V. Drummond, the doyen of the Shanghai Bar, as well as Mr. Duncan McNeill, (who had recently had some disagreement with his Lordship, and took this opportunity of making par)

all spoke in high terms of the Judge. Mr. Drummond said (in part):—I have known your Lordship for a very much longer period than any member of the local Bar; I have also known and practised before every one of your Lordship's predecessors in this Court; in fact I may say, I think, that I was practising in this Court at a period when some of my learned friends who are here to-day had not yet seen daylight in this world. Shanghai has been born as a place of residence for western people during the last sixty years, and this Court has been founded for about forty years, and during that period the increase in the population of the place and its volume of business has been enormous. A corresponding increase in the work of this Court has followed as a necessary result, and the most rapid increase of all has been during very recent years and has consequently fallen upon your Lordship's shoulders. I understand that your Lordship has lived and worked in the Far East for a period of about forty years. This, and the fact that you are now conducting your business with energy and success up to what is practically the eve of your departure for home, speaks volumes not only for the much maligned Shanghai climate but for the vigour of your Lordship's mind and body. There is one fact I would like to refer to for a moment, for although it lies outside the immediate work of Chief Justice of this Court, it has become practically an appanage of the office, and it affects practically the lives and well-being of the residents in the Settlement. The Bar is proud of the fact that it has become a custom in Shanghai for the Chief Justice to be invited to preside over the annual meeting of our local Parliament. The Bar is prouder still of the fact that your Lordship has been called upon frequently to perform this duty and has always complied with readiness and cheerfulness, carrying out this extra duty in a manner which has won the approbation of your fellow-residents. It only now remains for me to add to what I have said one final word, "God speed."

His Lordship, replying with evident emotion, said (in part):—I regret very much that the office which I now hold is about to be shorn of some of its outward dignity. I regret it extremely, and my desire is that it may be restored at as early a time as possible. I hope it may please the authorities to restore it speedily; but, whatever title the judge of this Court may bear, I feel quite certain he will carry on the traditions, which you have said that you think have been carried on up to the present time.

"WIRELESS" AT SHANGHAI.

Here are three extracts from a long article in the *N. C. Daily News*:—Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. have been appointed the agents for China and Manchuria for the "Telefunken" system, which is an amalgamation of the Braun-Siemens and Slaby-Arco systems. The firm has a central depot in Shanghai for the Far East (extending from India, to Japan, and including Singapore, Bangkok, and Hongkong), where a large stock of wireless telegraphic instruments are kept, rendering them able to fit up land or sea stations, and to supply portable military field stations.

At the rear of their (Shanghai) premises Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg have two aerial conductors erected on the roof of their godown. These wires are suspended by insulators attached to bamboo masts, and lead down to the apparatus room on the ground floor of their offices. It is not our purpose to describe technically the instruments in this apparatus room, but to refer to only those which must be mentioned in describing the method of transmitting and receiving messages from and at the station. As this station is only for communicating with a second testing station, situated at the Soy Chee Mills, a distance of some three miles, the aerial network is of ample dimensions. Electric power for the supply of the apparatus is obtained from the private central station at the rear of Messrs. Burkill and Sons' godown, which supplies this block of buildings with electricity. It may be noted, however, that all current from the Municipal supply is equally suitable. Each station

consists of two distinct sets of apparatus, viz., the transmitting and the receiving apparatus.

At Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s station at Soy Chee Mills the aerial conductor is attached to two tall chimneys, the wire stretching across a space between them, and being carried down to an apparatus room where messages can be received or transmitted. If the men-of-war in the vicinity of Shanghai wish to tune their instruments they can do so by communicating with Soy Chee Mills. From the latter station messages can be easily sent 160 miles, and with additional power over three hundred miles. The station in Kiukiang Road is used principally for demonstrations, but messages could be sent from there to a considerable distance. A little time back an apparatus was erected from the China Telegraph Co.'s offices to Hongkew, in order that a demonstration might be given.

The cost of fitting up wireless telegraphy shows a striking reduction when compared with the cost of a submarine cable. In military operations the labour saved by wireless telegraphy is enormous, although of course in the latter case the enemy may be able to tap the messages, should they be provided with instruments tuned to the same wave-length.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. are conducting negotiations for the fitting up of stations locally, and we may soon have the wireless telegraph in daily use in the Settlement.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AT HONGKONG.

The Registrar General in his annual report states:—

One unsatisfactory feature of the returns is the number of women (53 per cent.) who are unconditionally released after a period of detention. These women may be divided into four classes—(1) girls who have been trained to lead an immoral life but who appear to be too young to be considered free agents; (2) grown up women mostly widows and servants who have just commenced to lead an immoral life; (3) grown up women believed to be entering on an immoral life under compulsion; (4) grown up women, intending emigrants, claiming to be married women, but suspected of being induced to emigrate by fraud or intimidation. The difficulties in the way of forming a correct judgment on the first examination are very great. To begin with, the women and girls in classes 1 and 2 almost invariably make a false statement, one which is taught them by their owners and by the keepers of disorderly houses, and which varies so as to suit the idiosyncrasy of the examining officer. What the Registrar General has to go by is the bearing and appearance of the woman, their accent and their familiarity with the life they state they are leading. If they appear to be very young, bearing in mind that 20 per cent. of these women do not consider themselves to be free agents, he has no option but to remove them temporarily from the influence of their owners and do his best to ascertain their real age and history. If they appear to belong to class 2 he must satisfy himself that they understand they are not bound by any consideration given in China or any agreement made there. Class 3 consists of very ignorant women from the interior of the province or perhaps from Kwangsi. It has been possible to rescue a number of these, but the majority have been kept in Canton or some other city by their owners until they have become reconciled to the life.

Special efforts have been made during the year to prevent young girls entering on an immoral life in the Colony, and the success though not striking, is I think as great as could be expected. I hope however I may find it possible, with the co-operation of the Chinese gentlemen who are interested in this work, to reduce the number of women sent to the Po Leung Kuk, and thus lessen the inconvenience to the women themselves, and lighten the burden borne by the Society. The total number of persons admitted to the Po Leung Kuk during the year was 676, compared with 826 in 1903, a very satisfactory decrease, as there is no reason to suspect a relaxation of vigilance on the part of the Police or of this Department.

Twenty-five runaway maid-servants were admitted during the year. Most of the little girls complain of ill-treatment, but it is very rarely that any signs of ill-treatment can be seen; when they are, the Police are at once communicated with. I believe that as a class, these Chinese maid-servants in Hongkong are aware of the protection that the Government will extend to them. The case is the same with the inmates of houses of ill-fame, though many of them feel bound in honour to serve their owner for the number of years—usually from one to three in Hongkong—agreed upon.

In 1883 the late Dr. Stewart, who was then Registrar General, introduced a system of securing the proper upbringing of certain girls who had come under his protection, by requiring their guardians to enter into a bond to bring them to see the Registrar General once every quarter until they were satisfactorily settled in life. In 1891 the number of these girls was 123. They were mostly little children found in disorderly houses. By the close of 1903 the number was further reduced to 13, and it is satisfactory to think that no considerable increase is to be anticipated from the source above mentioned.

All the same, 18 more girls were added to the list during 1904. But they are an older class—about 15 or 16 years of age—who have already entered on an immoral life. No prosecution of their owners is possible, as proof of their real age cannot be procured. All that can be done is to bind their guardians, if any are forthcoming, not to let them enter a disorderly house, but to keep them in Hongkong and bring them before the Registrar General at regular intervals.

The Women and Girls Protection Ordinance gives the Registrar General very full powers of protection, but unfortunately permits the criminal to escape unpunished. In every charge made under Section 3 (traffic in woman or girl), it is necessary to prove "purpose of prostitution." This purpose is in many cases obvious, but impossible of proof, as naturally the victim is not consulted and the arrests are made on arrival or departure from the Colony, and not in a disorderly house. I question however whether it would be wise to extend the nature of an offence under this section. Intimidation and forcible detention are also very difficult of proof, but no amendment of the law can render the proof easier. There are two points on which, if public opinion supports it, an amendment would be justifiable and advisable. At present abduction with intent is only an offence in the case of girls under 16, and procuration the same. At home the ages are respectively 18 and 21. Physically a Cantonese girl may become adult sooner than an English girl, but it cannot be denied that from the nature of her upbringing a Cantonese girl of 17 or 20 requires just as much protection as an English girl of the same age.

DISTRICT WATCHMEN AT HONGKONG.

During 1904 the force of district watchmen at Hongkong has been increased by 18 men consequent on an understanding come to with the government by which a piece of land in the eastern part of the town was given as a site for a district watchmen's house on condition that the number of the force was increased. The site is in Nullah Lane not far from the Wan-chai Market, and a contract has been entered into for the erection of quarters at a cost of \$4,500. The condition of the force during the year was not quite satisfactory. It was found impossible to attract or retain good men, and it was decided to raise the rate of pay to the present figure which is approximately that of the Chinese Police. The increase in the pay dated from the 1st of August. The large increase in the contributions, which were \$23,241, as compared with \$12,648 in 1901, has rendered feasible the increase in the number of the force and in the rate of pay. The large balance in hand has also permitted the construction of quarters in both the east and west end of the town, and will allow of a needful extension being made to the central district watchmen's house in Tai-ping-shan.

Two and a half houses were purchased in Third Street, West Point, during the year. By an agreement with the owner of the adjacent property the house of which one half was bought, was pulled down and the space is to be left un-built upon. It was proposed to adapt the remaining two houses for district watchmen's quarters, but on examination it was found that party-walls were not strong, and that the work of adapting the premises would prove costly. It was decided therefore to pull down the old buildings and re-erect a more suitable one. The contract for the new building is for \$5,300. It will accommodate 31 men. The contributions to the fund for the year were \$23,241, as against \$22,495 in 1903, being an increase of \$745. The expenditure was \$22,347. The principal items of expenditure exclusive of wages were \$4,078 for the purchase of Inland Lot 680, section 1 sub-section 1 and one-half sub-section 2, at West Point for a district watchmen's house, \$1,199 for uniform and equipment, and \$632 for repairs to the central watchmen's house, and for painting and colour-washing. The balance to the credit of the fund on the 31st December was \$15,938. Against that must be put a liability of \$9,800 in connection with the erection of the two watchmen's quarters. Three hundred and thirty-five convictions were obtained before the police magistrate during the year through the instrumentality of district watchmen. One hundred and eighteen applications for the post of District Watchmen were received during the year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is reported from Peking that having received information that Russia intended to lay a light railway through a portion of Mongolia traversing the Prince of Khorchin's territory, probably mainly for the transport of supplies for the use of the Russian forces in Manchuria, the Waiwupu has addressed a strong dispatch to the Russian Minister in Peking on the subject and declared that the General commanding the Chinese troops in the threatened vicinity had received strict instructions to resist any such violation of neutral territory, with force if need be.—"Native Notes" in N.C.D.N.

Our Shanghai contemporary is going to give a slightly American atmosphere to its Chinese news. It announces:—

To avoid the clumsiness of giving the names of the Chinese provinces in full, where the name of a town or city is mentioned, we propose to use in future the following abbreviations:—

Anhui	.....	An.	Kiangsu	.....	Ku.
Chékiang	.....	Che.	Kuangsi	.....	Ks.
Chili	.....	Chi.	Kuangtung	.....	Kt.
Fukien	.....	Fu.	Kueichou	.....	Kc.
Honan	.....	Ho.	New Dominion	.....	N.D.
Hunan	.....	Hu.	Shansi	.....	Sha.
Hupeh	.....	Hp.	Shantung	.....	Sht.
Kansu	.....	Ka.	Shensi	.....	She.
Kianghuai	.....	Kh.	Szechuan	.....	Su.
Kiangsi	.....	Ki.	Yunnan	.....	Yu.

Manchuria Man.

No. 2 of Vol. 1 of *The Far East*, the monthly magazine edited at Shanghai by Mr. C. Fink, is an exceptionally interesting number, if only for the ancient Chinese map of the world that is reproduced and discoursed on. A gentleman describing a visit to Japan tells how he saw at Obama a lot of Japanese carrying water up a hill to a temple, where it was poured out in the hope of inducing the Supreme Being to send much needed rain. He addressed an English speaking Japanese who was so engaged, as follows:—

"I expressed my opinion that it would be far more sensible if he and his friends and companions were to use the water of the offering for the benefit of their own rice and sweet-potato fields, instead of laboriously bringing it up the hill and pouring it out in a useless stream. With a smile he looked me over from head to foot, shrugged his shoulders and then turned his back on me, without vouchsafing a single word." We can imagine that the Japanese thought a great deal, if he was too polite to say anything. Mr. F. Boehm, the tourist concerned, has something to learn yet.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 11th March, 1905.—Long-reels.—The fall in prices has attracted attention from European buyers, and a good number of ready lots have been cleared out of the market at irregular prices. Coarse sizes (18/18-18/22-20/30) have been in better request. Natives have also had a fair share of enquiry, 11/18 being very scarce and comparatively dear. From sales made we quote: Fila. Wing Cheong Sing 11/18 at \$490, Kum Lun Tai 18/16 at \$915; Yee Wo Loong 9/11 at \$900; On Wo Hing 6/11 at \$892; Kwai King Lun 10/12 at \$890; Kwong Shun Cheong 11/18 at \$890, Chee Chung Wo 11/18 at \$870; Oni Ho 18/15 at \$835; Yee Wo Cheong 18/22 at \$750; Quan Wo Hing 11/18-18/15-14/18 at \$745; Yee Wo Lun 18/15-14/18 at \$725. Short-reels.—A marked improvement has been shown in the demand from America, resulting in a very fair business. \$845 have been paid for Kwong Wo Hing 14/16 and \$820 for Chun Sun Hang 14/16. Waste Silk.—The market is very dull, but there is no pressure to sell. The values continue to be very strong in the country, owing to some merchants being obliged to cover their short sales made before the China New year. Stock.—Raw Silk, 2,000 Bales. Exchange.—Has fluctuated between: St. 1/11½; Frs. 2.45; G. \$48½. Bar Silver 27½. and St. 1/11½; Frs. 2.41; G. 47½. Bar Silver 27½.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 7th April.—The position of the market is the same as when last reported. Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$9.15 to \$9.20 pcls. Do. " 2, White..... 8.00 to 8.05 " Do. " 1, Brown..... 6.85 to 6.90 " Do. " 2, Brown..... 6.65 to 6.70 " Swatow, No. 1, White..... 8.65 to 8.70 " Do. " 2, White..... 7.75 to 7.80 " Do. " 1, Brown..... 6.65 to 6.70 " Do. " 2, Brown..... 6.55 to 6.60 " Foochow Sugar Candy13.15 to 13.20 " Shekloong "12.50 to 12.55 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 7th April.—The upward tendency continues, holders being firm. Saigon, Ordinary.....\$2.10 to \$2.15 " Round, good quality 3.85 to 3.90 " Long..... 3.90 to 3.95 Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 2.75 to 2.80 " Garden, " No. 1 2.95 to 3.00 " White, 4.05 to 4.10 " Fine Cargo 4.25 to 4.35

OPIUM.

HONGKONG 6th April, 1905.—Since the 28th ultimo, the movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa. Patna. Benares. Persian.				
Stocks as per circular of 23rd March, 1905.				
Mar. 24th Imports per Simla ..	1,584	2,999	1,233	2,212
Mar. 27th " " G. Apear ..	208	150	90	92½
April 3rd " " Lai Sang ..	—	500	120	—
		575	250	—
Less Exports to Shanghai ..	1,796	4,224	1,743	2,804½
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight ..	—	324	376	—
Estimated Stocks this day ..	1,624	2,262	1,069	2,240

Bengal.—As bargains in Chinese hands have been decreasing owing to satisfactory consumption there has been a fair business doing, but our prices have ruled far below replacing cost. We quote Patna at \$1,125 and Benares at \$1,065.

Malwa.—The market is quiet at the following quotations:—

New	\$1,100
2 years old	\$1,150
3 " "	\$1,180
4/5 " "	\$1,250
Oldest	\$1,340

Persian.—Market is steady.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of to-day's date, state that 16 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 56,800 tons of Japan coal and 11,900 tons of Cardiff. Since 24th March 57,100 tons of Japan coal and 18,500 tons of Cardiff coal have arrived. The market has somewhat improved. Quotations:—

Cardiff.....	\$18.00 ex-ship.
Australian	\$11.00 ex-ship.
Yubari Lump.....	\$12.00 ex-ship, nominal
Miki Lump	\$10.00 ex-ship, nominal
Moji Lump.....	\$7.50 to 10.50 ex-ship, steady.

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee in his Report, dated Hongkong 6th April, says:—The demand alluded to in our last report has been experienced throughout the past fortnight, but has been characterized by extreme caution on the part of dealers, as the expected enquiry from the country had not reached the proportion anticipated. The sales reported, however, amount to over 5,000 bales, being confined almost entirely to favourite chops of No. 10s, and 20s, which form the bulk of the settlements, and show an advance of 50 cents to \$2 per bale in values. Buyers have been forced to pay higher prices for spot goods, as deliveries under their late contracts have not been up to time and stocks have run short. Low class threads are still unsaleable. The Bombay market is reported steady, nearly all mills are well sold forward and in a strong position. We close quiet but firm.

Local Manufacture:—No sales reported.

Japanese Yarn:—Stocks are running low and prices have appreciated \$2 per bale, at which advance sales of some 300 bales No. 20s at \$132 are reported. Close strong.

Raw Cotton:—The market for Indian Cotton appears somewhat to be steady at the decline and sales of superfine Bengals to the extent of 800 bales at from \$21 to \$23 have transpired. China cotton continues quiet. Unsold stock 5,000 bales Indian and 400 bales Chinese. Shipments to Japan about 500 bales Bengal. Quotations are \$19 to \$23½ for Bengal and \$23 to \$26 for China.

Exchange on Indian has steadily declined and closes to-day at Rs. 186 for T/T and Rs. 186½ for Post. On Shanghai 72, and on Yokohama 98½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended 31st ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Total sales 7,200 bales, No. 10s being slightly weaker, while the prices of No. 20s are fairly steady. Unsold stock about 50,000 bales.

Japanese:—Market very firm; No. 16s showing a further advance of one tael and business to the extent of 8,000 bales is reported on the basis of Tls. 102 to 109 for No. 16s, and Tls. 100 to 108 for No. 20s.

Local:—A single sale of 100 bales Soechee Mills No. 14s at Tls. 88½ is the only business of the week. Close very steady.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 30th March, 1905, states:—The constant rumours that Peace proposals are pending leads to the supposition that one party to the War is tired of it; but they would gain more credence if unaccompanied by the suggestion that Russia is ready and willing to accept certain conditions. Her occupation of Manchuria has been proved to be as untenable as it was unjustifiable, and it will be surprising if Japan does not insist on imposing her own terms, however onerous they may be. It is more than probable, therefore, the struggle may continue a few months longer, but the result will be the same in the end. As stated in our last the steamers for Newchwang commenced clearing on the 27th instant, and during that and the two following days seven of the regular liners, and two others, were despatched, while more are loading. The Port was actually opened on the 28th instant, but no market news has come down as yet. Tientsin continues to take a fair quantity, and no doubt would take more if the cargo were available, but late arrivals are still causing a considerable amount of discontent. One large import house was actually the recipient of a round robin, signed by all the leading dealers, protesting and setting forth the losses they are subjected to owing to the lower Exchange, and also through missing their markets. Something must be done to remedy this, and it is hoped that the ventilation the question received a few days ago at the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Chamber of Commerce will bring forth some good result. The complaints are becoming very serious both as regards the United States and Manchester. With the latter, however, the goods pass through so many hands it will be somewhat difficult to fix the responsibility. At present there is great dissatisfaction, both with Foreign Importers and the Natives. Some very opportune and pertinent remarks were also made at that Meeting at the apathetic manner in which the Chinese Government is treating the question of currency reform, which was stipulated for in all the New Treaties, and the dangers that are likely to accrue through the indiscriminate way in which the various Provincial Authorities are minting subsidiary Copper Coin. The actual business transacted during the interval has not been of much interest, for the reason that available supplies in importers hands are practically exhausted, but clearances leave

nothing to complain of, in fact money is pouring in, both for goods on the spot and to arrive. Forward transactions continue on much the same lines as before, that is as regards British makes, with delivery any time during the first six months of 1906. The most important items of the week, however, have been in Turkey Reds. There is still a demand for soft finish White Shirtings for Corea, and also for certain qualities of 8.4 ins. Shirtings. The Auctions have not showed up particularly well. The Manchester market is decidedly stronger, though here and there, under evidently special circumstance, a parcel can be obtained at a really reasonably moderate price. The cotton market in Liverpool has suffered a decline to 4.24d for Mid-American and 6½d for Egyptian. The Export from Lancashire for the fortnight ending 24th inst. was 22,000,000 yards. The New York market is still very strong, and we hear of some high prices being paid for late delivery. Cotton is lower there, 7.9 cents being the last quotation for April and 7.40 cents for May. There is more doing in this market for Yarns at fairly steady to firm prices. Native Cotton is easier.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Achilles*, sailed on 29th March. For Rotterdam:—14 packages curios, &c. For London or Continent:—134 packages galangal, 67 packages feathers. For Antwerp:—35 packages tobacco, 150 packages gallnuts, 103 packages feathers. For London or Hamburg:—10 packages bristles 155 packages canes. For Glasgow:—19 packages bamboo ware & curios. For London:—50 packages waste silk, 15 packages essential oil, 361 packages canes, 800 packages ginger, 893 packages soy, 20 packages bristles, 30 packages bamboo ware, 150 packages feathers, 27 packages chinaware, 15 packages cigars, 30 packages private effects, 5 packages sundries.

Per steamer *Prins Regent Luitpold*, sailed on 29th March. For Aden:—240 rolls chinaware. For Genoa:—200 bales waste silk, 100 bales raw silk, 25 cases essential oil, 20 bales canes. For Buenos Ayres:—200 cases fans. For Antwerp:—50 cases bristles, 33 cases chinaware, 4 cases blackwoodware, 3 cases ginger. For Antwerp and Hamburg:—25 cases bristles, 20 bales feathers. For Amsterdam:—39 cases chinaware, 9 rolls matting, 2 cases curios, 2 cases ginger, 2 cases blackwoodware. For Rotterdam:—142 bales canes, 22 cases tea. For Bremen:—161 rolls matting. For Bremen and Hamburg:—100 cases ginger, 32 bales feathers, For Hamburg:—300 bales feathers, 67 bales canes, 50 cases human hair, 11 cases blackwoodware, 10 cases essential oil, 5 cases paper, 4 cases sundries. For London:—30 cases bristles, 5 rolls matting. For Copenhagen:—175 bales feathers, 11 packages Rattanware, 2 cases camphorwood boxes.

Per M.M. steamer *Tourans*, sailed on the 4th April. For Marseilles:—421 bales raw silk, 150 bales waste silk, 134 bales pierced cocoons, 16 cases silk piece goods, 40 packages human hair, 420 bags mineral ore, 20 cases ylang ylang oil, 40 cases joss sticks, 12 cases curios, 17 packages private effects, 9 cases porcelain, 20 cases essential oil, 2 cases hats, 1 bale cotton. For Lyons:—543 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—32 bales raw silk.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 7th March.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/91½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/92
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/91½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10½
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	229
Credits 4 months' sight	232½
ON GERMANY.—On demand	186½
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	44½
Credits, 60 days' sight	45½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	136
Bank, on demand	136½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	136
Bank, on demand	136½
ON HANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	89½
ON MANILA.—On demand	89
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	7½ p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	109½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1½ p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1 p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	62
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate ..	\$10 90
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$56.10
BAR SILVER, per oz.	25½

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th April, 1905.—Business on the stockmarket has somewhat slackened during the week under review, and although a fair amount of investment funds have been handled, and a small speculative business put through, we have nothing of any importance to report. Rates have been well maintained and in the majority of cases show improvements upon those of last weeks, which, taking into account the reported tightness of money among the Chinese, is significant.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, with the very pronounced success of the new Japanese loan in London, and in sympathy with a rise of £2 in the London rate, shares here came into fair demand, and the rate gradually rose, with but few sales, from \$76 (quoted last week) to the closing rate of \$77½. The sales reported during the week are at \$770 and \$772½, and a few small ones at \$775. The market closes firm with an upward tendency. Nationals have been placed at \$36½ and more shares could be placed at that rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue on offer at \$70, and a little lower rate would probably be accepted for a few shares on the market. Cantons have been placed at \$285, and more are wanted at that rate. China Traders continue on offer at \$58. North Chinas remain with sellers at Tls. 95, whilst Yangtszes have improved to \$170 with buyers and no shares available.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are still offering at \$310, and Chinas after small sales at \$28, continue on offer at that rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed at \$26 and \$26½, closing with sales and further small buyers at the latter rate. Indo-Chinas have ruled very steady at \$12½, with but limited business for cash. On time shares have changed hands at \$126 for June and \$127 August. The latest Shanghai quotation is Tls. 88. Douglases have been placed at \$34½ and \$35, closing with buyers at the former rate. New Star Ferries have declined half a point to \$28½ with sales; other stocks under this heading call for no remark.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue to rule fairly steady, but a few shares are obtainable at \$224 for cash and at \$226 for settlements. On time sales have been effected at \$237 for August. Luzons remain at \$27, but shares could probably be placed at that rate.

MINING.—Raubas have found buyers at \$4, and close in a small demand at that rate.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue neglected, and the rate has further declined to \$204, with no buyers either for cash or forward. Kowloon Wharves have been dealt in at \$107, closing with sellers at that rate. New Amoy Docks have further declined to \$24 with sellers and no business. Farnhams after sales at Tls. 152½, Tls. 155, and Tls. 157 have advanced to Tls. 160 at which last rate the stock closes steady.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have found buyers at \$128½ and \$129, closing steady at the latter rate, but shares are obtainable for forward delivery at an equivalent rate. Kowloon Lands have changed hands at \$39½. West Points remain neglected at \$55. Hongkong Hotels are steady at \$140. Humphreys are enquired for at the improved rate of \$12½. Shanghai Lands are quoted at Tls. 115 sellers.

COTTON MILLS.—Internationals have advanced to Tls. 32 with buyers. Laon-Kung-Mows to Tls. 35 and Hongkongs to \$16½.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Dairy Farms are in request at \$14, but no shares seem to be obtainable. Green Islands (new issue) have been placed at \$17 and old shares rule steady at \$27. China Light and Powers have advanced to \$10 with sales. Watsons (old) are enquired for at \$12½ and a few new issue have changed hands at \$12½.

MEMOS.—Wm. Powell, Ltd., interim dividend of 50 cents per share payable at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on 10th instant. Transfer books are closed to the 10th instant. China Borneo Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 15th instant. Transfer books are closed till the 15th instant. Hongkong Rope Co., ordinary yearly meeting on 8th instant. Transfer books closed till 8th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	\$775
National B. of China	27	London, 280
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$36½ sales & buy.
China-Borneo Co.	12	\$5½
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$14½
China Provident	\$10	\$10, sales & buy.
		\$8½, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 32, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$16½, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 32, buyers
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 35
Soychoe	Tls. 500	Tls. 150, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$8	\$14, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 160
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$107, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$204, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$24, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 175
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$36, sellers
G. Island Cement.	\$10	\$27
	\$5	\$17, sales
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$160, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$17, buyers
Do New	\$5	\$11, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$242, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$155
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$18, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$285, sales & buy.
China Fire	\$20	\$86, sales & sel.
China Traders	\$25	\$58, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$310, sellers
North China	\$5	Tls. 95, sellers
Union	\$100	\$700, sellers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$170, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$120
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12½, buyers
Do. New	\$10	
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$39½, sales
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 115, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubas	18/10	\$4, sales & sellers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$224, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$27
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$21, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$34½, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$26½, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$121, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	21s.
Do. Preference	\$10	28. 10s
Star Ferry	\$10	\$37½, sales
Do. New	\$5	\$28½, sales
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$23
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7, buyers
Do. New	\$3	\$4½, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$12½, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12½, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9½
Do. Founders	\$10	\$180

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset and Co.'s Share Report for the week ending March 30th 1905, states:—Considerable business has been done during the week, principally in covering transactions for today's (March) settlements. This refers particularly to Farnhams, Langkats, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. The markets have remained very steady at about old quotations. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/6½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. These are quoted in the South, sales at \$755. The latest London quotation is £76.10. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. The directors of the Yangtsze Insurance recommend a dividend of 20 per cent. for the year ending 31st December, placing to reserve \$50,000, \$50,000 to re-insurance account, and carrying forward the balance of \$42,191; also to pay out of interest earned a

special dividend of 5 per cent. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas have been placed for cash at Tls. 88, 88½, 87½, and 88½, and for July Tls. 92 and 91. Tugs, Ordinary shares have been placed at Tls. 51 and Preference at Tls. 45½ and 47. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyds. The market opened with sales at Tls. 146, weakened slightly to Tls. 145½, improving to Tls. 146, 147, 148½, 149, and 150 for cash. At closing the cash rate is quiet at Tls. 150. Sales have been effected for April at Tls. 151; May Tls. 153; July Tls. 157½, 158, 155, and 157. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. Considerable transactions have taken place in these during the week. The market opened at the beginning of the week with sales for July at Tls. 200, improving to Tls. 205. On the 25th a cash transaction took place at Tls. 200 with sales for June at Tls. 207½ and 210 July. On the 27th cash shares were placed at Tls. 200, 197½, and Tls. 200 for April, and Tls. 210 for July. On the 28th divided shares ex div. were placed at Tls. 157½ and a sale for July at Tls. 210. The market closes with a sale for April at Tls. 205. This Company's meeting was held yesterday; warrants will be issued to-day. Sugars.—Luzons have been placed to Hongkong at \$25½. Peraks are wanted at Tls. 55. Mining.—Weihsaiwei Golds have been placed at \$7 and 6½. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 115 and are offering. Industrial.—Ewos have been placed at Tls. 32 and have buyers at this rate. This is the only business reported in Cottons. China Flours have been placed at Tls. 65 ex. div. Paper and Pulps are reported at Tls. 155 and are wanted. Ices at Tls. 20½ ex. div. Langkats. The market opened at Tls. 247½ and 250 cash, and to-day's settlement remained firm at these rates during the week and at closing transactions are quoted at Tls. 252½ and 251½. June shares have been placed at Tls. 280 and July at Tls. 282½, 281½, and 263. Stores and Hotels.—Mondons have been placed at \$23; Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 21 for April, Tls. 22½ for June. Moutries have found buyers at \$55. This Company announces that an interim dividend for the half year ending 31st December at the rate of 4 per cent. will be paid on the 3rd of April. Astor House placed at \$30 and Hall and Holtz at \$25. Miscellaneous.—Telephones at Tls. 68 and Municipal 6 per cent. debentures at Tls. 98.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 7th April.—A fair amount of business has been transacted during the past fortnight. From Saigon to this, 13 cents for medium sized carriers and 12 cents for large carriers; to Philippines, as high as 35 cents per picul has been paid for one port, but not more than 30 cents per picul is now obtainable; to Japan, 28 cents per picul last; to Java, no demand. From north coast Java to this, 30 cents nominal. Coal freights. From Moji to this, \$1.40 and \$1.50 per ton. Newchwang/Outwards. No inquiry. Time charters. More steamer have been closed, particulars given below, all for Japanese account.

The following are the settlements:—

Stanley Dollar—Danish steamer, 1,857 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Werneth Hall—British steamer, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.
Norman Isles—Norwegian steamer, 2,190 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Arratoon Apar—British steamer, 2,931 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.40 per ton.
Costante—Italian steamer, 1,749 tons, hence to Kobe, \$6,000 lump sum.
Aldershot—British steamer, 1,354 tons, hence to Yokohama, \$5,750 lump sum.
Tanglin—German steamer, 1,283 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.
Isleworth—British steamer, 1,716 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.
Nord—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 35 cents per picul.
Nanshan—British steamer, 1,299 tons, Saigon to two ports Philippines, 33 cents per picul.
Bourbon—French steamer, 977 tons, Saigon to Manila, 32 cents per picul.
Hopsang—British steamer, 1,359 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 30 cents per picul.
Onsang—British steamer, 1,787 tons, Saigon to Manila, 30 cents per picul.
Skramstad—Norwegian steamer, 759 tons, Saigon to Kobe, 28 cents per picul.
Tetartos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, monthly, 8 months, private terms.
Proteus—Norwegian steamer, 1,024 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$8,000 per month (recharter).
Sobralense—British steamer, 1,232 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$9,750 per month.
Skuld—Norwegian steamer, 913 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$8,560 per month.
Fri—Norwegian steamer, 859 tons, monthly, about 5 months, \$8,775 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

April—

ARRIVALS.

- 2, Charterhouse, British str., from Singapore.
- 2, Dagny, Norwegian str., from Penarth.
- 2, Decima, German str., from Anping.
- 2, Jason, British str., from Liverpool.
- 2, Waihora, British str., from Singapore.
- 3, Armand Behic, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
- 3, Hilary, German str., from Penarth.
- 3, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 3, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
- 3, Kohsichang, German str., from Swatow.
- 3, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 3, Linan, British str., from Swatow.
- 3, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 3, Tourane, French str., from Yokohama.
- 3, Trocas, British str., from Tientsin.
- 4, Germania, German str., from Tourane.
- 4, Giang Bee, British str., from Kobe.
- 4, Haitan, British str., from Coast Port's.
- 4, Ithak, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 4, Lennox, British str., from Karatsu.
- 4, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
- 4, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 4, Shantung, British str., from Hongay.
- 4, Stiklestad, Norw. str., from Singapore.
- 5, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Bonalder, British str., from London.
- 5, Bourbon, French str., from Saigon.
- 5, Chihli, British str., from Canton.
- 5, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
- 5, Glenogle, British str., from Singapore.
- 5, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 5, Loksang, British str., from Canton.
- 5, Mathilda, Norwegian str., from Karatsu.
- 5, Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Tartar, British str., from Vancouver.
- 6, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 6, Carl Menzell, Ger. str., from Singapore.
- 6, Chingtu, British str., from Kobe.
- 6, Comomandel, British str., from Bombay.
- 6, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 6, Helena, German str., from Swatow.
- 6, Loyal, German str., from Sourabaya.
- 6, Kowloon, German str., from Canton.
- 6, Nubia, British str., from Shanghai.
- 6, Schuykill, British str., from Shanghai.

April—

DEPARTURES.

- 3, Barry, U.S. torpedo, for Manila.
- 3, Chauncey, U.S. torpedo, for Manila.
- 3, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
- 3, Johanne, German str., for Haiphong.
- 3, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 3, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 3, Oregon, U.S. cruiser, for Manila.
- 3, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Anghin, German str., for Hoihow.
- 4, Armand Behic, French str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Clara Jebsen, German str., for Swatow.
- 4, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
- 4, Costante, Italian str., for Kobe.
- 4, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 4, Jason, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Kish, British str., for Saigon.
- 4, Linan, British str., for Ningpo.
- 4, Lisa, Swedish str., for Canton.
- 4, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Purnea, British str., for Amoy.
- 4, Quarta, German str., for Kobe.
- 4, Ras Rowa, British str., for Yokohama.
- 4, Taiyuan, British str., for Kobe.
- 4, Tean, British str., for Manila.
- 4, Tourane, French str., for Europe.
- 4, Trocas, British str., for Balik Papan.
- 4, Waihora, British str., for Swatow.
- 4, Waterwitch, British str., for a cruise.
- 5, Charterhouse, British str., for Amoy.
- 5, Gaea, German str., for Bangkok.
- 5, Germania, German str., for Canton.
- 5, Gregory Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
- 5, Katharine Park, Brit. str., for K'ohinotzu.
- 5, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 5, Stiklestad, Norwegian str., for Nagasaki.
- 5, W. Bridge, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Bonalder, British str., for Nagasaki.
- 6, Chihli, British str., for Newchwang.
- 6, Decima, German str., for Swatow.
- 6, Devawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
- 6, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
- 6, Ithaka, German str., for Canton.
- 6, Lokang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
- 6, Proteus, German str., for Tamsui.
- 6, Ruth, Norwegian str., for Kutchinotzu.
- 6, Tetartos, German str., for Takao.

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Printed and published by **BETRAM AUGUSTUS** HALL for the Concerned, at 14, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria Hongkong. London Office: 181, Fleet Street, E.C.

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